

PRONOUNS

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1 Pronouns

Contenuti

PRONOUNS:

- Personal/Relative/interrogative/demonstrative/
- Reflexive/Indefinite pronouns
- Situational dialogue: «In a Pub»

A Pronoun is a word that is used instead of a noun or noun phrase. Pronouns refer to either a noun that has already been mentioned or to a noun that does not need to be named specifically.

Un pronome è una parola che viene utilizzata al posto di una frase nominale o di un sostantivo. I Pronomi si riferiscono sia ad un sostantivo che è già stato menzionato sia ad un sostantivo che non ha bisogno di essere specificamente nominato.

1.1. *Personal pronouns*

The most common pronouns are **the personal pronouns**, which refer to the person or people speaking or writing (first person), the person being spoken to (second person), or other people (Third person).

Several of the personal pronouns have singular and plural forms.

Like nouns, personal pronouns can function as either the subject of a verb or the object of a verb or preposition.

I pronomi più comuni sono i pronomi personali, questi si riferiscono alla persona o le persone che parlano o scrivono (in prima persona), alla persona a cui si parla (seconda persona), o ad altre persone (terza persona).

Molti dei pronomi personali hanno forma singolare e plurale.

Come i nomi, i pronomi personali possono funzionare sia come soggetto di un verbo sia come oggetto di un verbo o preposizione.

Most of the personal pronouns have different subject and object form:

As subject

	Singular	Plural
1° person:	I	we
2° person:	you	you
3° person:	he, she, it	they

As object

	Singular	Plural
1° person:	me	us
2° person:	you	you
3° person:	him, her, it	them

Choose the correct personal pronoun

1. My name is Sue. (Sue)___I__am English. And this is my family.
2. My mum's name is Angie. (Angie) __SHE_____is from Germany.
3. Bob is my dad. (My dad) ____HE_____is a waiter.
4. On the left you can see Simon. (Simon) ____HE_____is my brother.
5. (Sue and Simon) ____THEY_____are twins.

6. Our dog is a girl, Judy. (Judy) __SHE/IT____is two years old.
7. (Sue, Simon, Angie and Bob) __THEY____live in Canterbury.
8. (Canterbury) ____IT____is not far from London.
9. My grandparents live in London. (My grandparents) _THEY_ often come and see us.
10. What can __YOU____tell me about your family?

1.2. Relative Pronouns

Relative Pronouns introduce subordinate clauses. The main relative pronouns are: **that, which, who, whom, what** and **whose**. **I pronomi relativi** introducono proposizioni subordinate, i principali pronomi relativi sono: **that, which, who, whom, what** and **whose**.

Relative pronouns are neither singular nor plural.

I pronomi relativi non sono né singolari né plurali.

- Who, which, that, what (sogg.)
- Whom, which, that, what (compl.ogg.)
- Whose (genitive possessive)
- Who, whom (persona);
- Which (animali, cose);
- That (persone, animali, cose)
- *the man who came yesterday;*
- *the man (whom) you met yesterday,*
- *the cat which/that is in the street;*
- *the book that is on the table*

Il pronome relativo può essere omissivo quando ha funzione di complemento oggetto

- *The man you met yesterday*

I pronomi *who*, *whom*, *which* non sono mai sostituiti da *that* nelle proposizioni relative con valore parentetico:

- *My brother, who is a doctor, knows his job well.*

I pronomi *whom*, *which*, preceduti da preposizioni, formano i complementi indiretti:

- *The man of whom I spoke*
- *The man (that) I spoke of*
- *The man I spoke of*

Which si riferisce anche ad un'intera frase o concetto espresso in precedenza:

- *He said he would come which I don't believe*

Whose esprime appartenenza, di solito si riferisce a persona:

- *She is a woman whose skill is not known.*
- *The painter, whose picture we are looking at, is well known.*

What corrisponde a 'quello che', 'ciò che':

- *That's what he told me*

All that traduce 'tutto quello che'; **that** può anche essere omissivo:

- *All that he said/ All he said.*

Who, **whom**, quali pronomi interrogativi si riferiscono sempre a persona;

what pronome interrog. significa 'che cosa':

- *What did he tell you?*

What aggett. interrog. significa 'quale':

- *what subjects do you study at school?*

Ma, se la domanda è riferita ad un ambito limitato, 'quale' va tradotto con **which**:

- *which of the subjects that you study at school do you prefer?*
- *Which of those men is your brother?*

Nelle frasi esclamative 'che' va tradotto con **what**:

- ***What good beer this is! (uncountable noun)***
- ***What a nice book this is! (countable noun)***
- ***What a difficult day!***
- ***What difficult days!***
- ***At what time...?***

Orario/parti del giorno/settimana/mese/anno

At seven, at noon, **in the** morning, in the evening, **in** September, in those days (spazio di tempo continuato), ma at night ('di sera')

- ***On what day..?***

On Sunday/ on Saturday, June 21st; **on the morning of Saturday, June 21st** (giorni del mese , della settimana, con day, morning, evening, afternoon, night, etc. se determinate).

- *Es.: On that day; On a cold night; On that occasion, etc.*
- ***Cfr. : on the morning of Saturday, June 21st /on Saturday, June 21st, in the morning.***
- *On Sunday/On a Sunday/ On Sundays.*
- *In what year...? In 1981.*

EXERCISE

Combine the sentences with relative clauses. (Decide whether to use commas or not.)

1. A monk is a man. The man has devoted his life to God.

A monk, **who is a man**, has devoted..._____

2. I have one black cat. His name is Blacky.

I have_a cat, **whose name is Blacky**_____

3. A herbivore is an animal. The animal feeds upon vegetation.

A herbivore_is an animal **that feeds** upon...____

4. Carol plays the piano brilliantly. She is only 9 years old.

Carol, **who is only 9 years old**, plays...

5. Sydney is the largest Australian city. It is not the capital of Australia.

Sydney, **which/that s not the capital of Austr.**, is the largest....

Combine the sentences with contact clauses.

1. We ordered a book....(**It**) was very expensive.

_____ **that** _____

2. You are sitting on a bench.... (The) paint on the bench is still wet.

_____, **whose paint**..._____

3. The photographer could not develop the pictures... I had taken them in Australia.

_____ **(that) I had taken in A.**_____

4. One of the bins smells awful. You haven't emptied the bin for 3 weeks.

__One of the bins **(that) you haven't emptied**....., smells awfully.

5. They are singing a song. I don't know the song.

_They are singing **a song (that) I don't know**._____

Combine the sentences with relative clauses or contact clauses. Use contact clauses where possible. (Decide whether to use commas or not.)

1. The city seems to be abandoned. It is usually crowded with people.

_THE CITY, THAT IS USUALLY CROWDED, SEEMS...

2. You made an offer. We cannot accept it.

YOU MADE AN OFFER, WHICH WE CANNOT ACCEPT.

3. A midwife is a woman. She assists other women in childbirth.

A WOMAN, WHO ASSISTS....., IS A MIDWIFE.

4. Three youngsters were arrested by the police. They had committed criminal offences.

The police _ARRESTED THREE....., WHO HAD COMMITTED...

5. The World Wide Web has become an essential part of our lives. It was invented by Tim Berners-Lee.

Tim Berners-Lee _WHO INVENTED _the world wide web...

1.3. *Interrogative pronouns*

The interrogative pronouns, particularly: *what*, *which*, *who*, *whom*, and *whose*, introduce questions for which a noun is the answer.

I pronomi interrogativi, in particolare: *che cosa*, *che*, *chi*, *chi*, e *di cui*, introducono domande alle quali la risposta è un sostantivo.

Examples:

What are you thinking?

Who's at the door?

Whose is this?

Who thought of that?

What are you doing?

Se il soggetto di una preposizione interrog. è un pronome interrog.(who, which, that), in genere non si usa il verbo to do per comporre la domanda:

- “*Who spoke to you?*”

in caso negativo :

- “*Who did not speak to you?*”.

Interrogative Pronouns Exercise

Fill in the blanks with suitable interrogative pronouns

1. _____ did you invite to preside over the meeting?

- a) Who
- b) Whom
- c) What
- d) Whose

2. She asked _____ I preferred, tea or coffee?

- a) Who
- b) That

- c) Which
- d) Whom

3. Of _____ are you speaking?

- a) Who
- b) Whom
- c) Whose
- d) None of these

4. _____ do you want to do?

- a) What
- b) Which
- c) That
- d) Whom

5. _____ shall I give this to?

- a) Whom
- b) What
- c) Whose
- d) Which

6. _____ of these books will you take?

- a) Which
- b) Whom

c) That

d) Whose

7. I don't know _____ of them will actually get it?

a) Whom

b) What

c) Which

d) Whose

8. _____ said these words?

a) Who

b) Whom

c) What

d) Which

9. Of _____ boy are you speaking?

a) Whom

b) Who

c) Which

d) That

10. _____ do you want to see?

a) Who

b) Whom

- c) Which
- d) Whose

11. _____ did he come here for?

- a) Why
- b) What
- c) Whom
- d) Who

12. _____, do you think, is the correct answer to this question?

- a) What
- b) Which
- c) Who
- d) Whom

RISPOSTE ESATTE:

1.a – 2.c – 3.b – 4.a – 5.a – 6.a – 7.c – 8.a – 9.c – 10.a – 11.c – 12.b -

1.4. *Demonstrative pronouns*

The four demonstrative pronouns: *This*, *That*, *These* and *Those*, distinguish the person or the thing being referred to from other people or things.

I quattro pronomi dimostrativi: questo, quello, questi e quelli, distinguono la persona o la cosa cui si fa riferimento da altre persone o cose.

Examples:

This is my bag.

What is that?

Who knows those people?

1.5. Possessive pronouns

Possessive pronouns refer to things or people that belong to someone. The main possessive pronouns are: **mine, yours, his, hers, its, ours, and theirs.**

Pronomi possessivi si riferiscono a cose o persone che appartengono a qualcuno, i pronomi possessivi principali sono: **mio, tuo, suo, di lei, la sua, la nostra e la loro.**

Pronomi possessivi

Ex.:

This is my dog = this is mine

That is his pencil = that's his

This is our house = this is ours

Which are your kids? = which are yours?

Possessive Pronouns

Replace the subject-pronouns with the correct possessive adj.

1. I have lost (I) MY keys.
2. Did you brush (you) YOUR teeth?
3. Alex and Lucy like to ride (they) THEIR bikes.
4. Claire is looking for (she) HER favourite top.

5. We would like to sit at (we))___OUR___usual table please.

1.My 2.your 3.their 4.her 5.our.

EXERCISE

Replace the subject pronoun with the correct independent possessive pronoun.

1. Colin bought a new car yesterday. It's (he))___HIS___now.
2. It seems that we have the same jacket. Is this (I) _MINE_?
3. I parked my car right outside. Where did you park (you) __YOURS_?
4. I can't find Sue and Peter's house. Which one is (they) ___THEIRS_?
5. In the cinema: "We are looking for our seats. Are these (we) __OURS_?"

Choose the correct possessive pronoun. Decide if you need an independent or a dependent possessive pronoun.

1. This is __MY___brother Daniel.
2. Steve has got a new computer. It's ___HIS_____.
3. I haven't seen Kate and David's children for years. Which ones are __THEIRS_____?
4. My brother Stan and I like to play hide and seek. The cupboard under the stairs is ___OUR___favourite hiding place.
5. Lily's dad often helps __HIS___ younger sister with __HER_____ homework. Today Lily asked him if he could help her with ___HERS_____ too.

1.6. Reflexive pronouns

Reflexive pronouns refer to the subject of a sentence and are formed by ending self or selves to personal pronouns or possessive adjective.

I pronomi riflessivi fanno riferimento al soggetto di una frase e sono formati aggiungendo *self* or *selves* a pronomi personali oppure ad aggettivi possessivi.

Reflexive pronouns:

Myself,	ourselves
Yourself	yourself
Himself, herself, itself	themselves

Ex.:

What do you think about yourself?

He told himself that it would be all right.

Type in the correct reflexive pronoun.

1. I don't need any help. I can do it __MYSELF_____(I)
2. Edwin fixed his bike all by _HIMSELF____Edwin (he)
3. Beth and Chris got a little lost one day on their way back from school. But they found the right way home all by ____THEMSELVES_____. (they)
4. Olivia got a very good mark on her English test. She was very pleased with ----HERSELF_____. (she)
5. We had to ask OURSELVES if this was the right thing to do.

1. **1.Myself 2.himself 3.themselves 4.herself 5. Ourselves**

Are the Reflexive Pronouns in the sentences below necessary or not?

1. I blame myself for the accident. (N/UN)
2. He prides himself on his cooking. (N/UN)
3. He shaved himself this morning. (N/UN)
4. He cut himself shaving. (N/UN)
5. They enjoyed themselves. (N/UN)
6. If you're feeling yourself sick, go home. (N/UN)
7. I'm going home because I don't feel myself at the moment. (N/UN)
8. He availed himself of the freebies. (N/UN)
9. Steel yourself for some bad news. (N/UN)
10. I bathed myself in the sea. (N/UN)

1.N - 2.N - 3.UN - 4.N - 5.N - 6.UN - 7.UN - 8.N - 9.N – 10.UN -.

1.7. Indefinite Pronouns

Indefinite pronouns do not refer to a specific person or thing.

I pronomi indefiniti non si riferiscono ad una persona o cosa specifica.

The most important indefinite pronouns include:

All, another, any, anybody, anyone, anything, both, each, either, enough, everybody, everyone, everything, few, less, little, many, more, most, much, neither, no one, nobody, none, nothing, one, the other, others, several, some, somebody, someone, something such.

Indefinite pronouns

Ex.:

All people are equal

No one can be held in slavery

Everyone can be free to leave

Have you found anything?

Can you meet somebody there?

Fill in all the gaps with either 'somebody, anybody, nobody, something, anything or nothing'

INDEFINITE PRONOUNS

1 I can hear __SOMEBODY____at the door.

2 Does ANYBODY __want to go to the cinema.

3 A: What are you doing on Saturday?

B: _NOTHING_____

.4 "Can _ANYBODY __ tell me the capital of Mongolia?"

5 "Would you like _SOMETHING__to eat?"(risposta posit.)

6 The film was in German so I couldn't understand _ANYTHING_ they said.

7 I'm sad because __NOBODY____remembered my birthday.

8 As it's your birthday you can order _ANYTHING__you like from the menu.

9 Oh no! _SOMEBODY_'s eaten my chocolate mousse. Swine!

10 Poor thing! We have to do _SOMETHING_ to help.

2 Situational dialogue

In a pub: The hours during which English pubs are allowed to open are strictly controlled by the law. Times vary in different parts of the country, but roughly from 11 a.m to 2.30 p.m. Beer, wine and spirits, as well as non- alcoholic drinks, can be bought at a pub, but it is rare to find one that sells coffee and tea. At one time, the only food available was sandwiches and meat pies, but nowadays the situation is much better with food served at the bars of many pubs.

1.

What are you going to have?

A half of bitter, please

Are you sure you won't have a scotch?

Thanks very much, but I'm driving.

2. What's it to be? The same again, please.

Won't you make it a pint this time?

I'd better not, thank you all the same.

3. What would you like to drink?

Just a light ale for me, please.

Won't you have a gin and tonic with me?

That's very kind of you, but I don't think I will.

4.

What can I get you?

I'd like a lager, please.

Wouldn't you care for something a little stronger?

No I think I'd better stick to halves, thanks.

3 Autovalutazione

TEST DI AUTOVALUTAZIONE

1. Bob,...is a waiter, knows Mary very well. (who\whom\that\where)
2. The man... came yesterday is my brother. (who/whom/that/where)
3. His cousin...is a lawyer, knows his job well. (who/whom/that/where)
4. He is a man...skill is well known
(whose/which/that/where)
5. I met a man ...sister knows you.
(whose/which/that/where)
6. ...do you want to do?
(what/where/which/whom)
7. ...of these books will you take?
(Which/what/where/who)
8. Of....are you speaking?
(whom/which/who/where)
- 9.... Are your kids?
(which/who/whom/where)
10. I can't do it.... If you like.
(myself/which/yourself/where)

Risposte corrette

- **Answer key:**
- **1. who 2, who 3. who 4. whose 5.whose**
- **6.what 7. which 8. whom 9.which**
- **10. myself.**