

# Unit 8

## Pronoun References

### Objectives

After the completion of this unit, you would be able to–

- explain what pronoun and pronoun reference are.
- explain different types of pronouns.
- understand the use of pronoun references.
- produce sentences using appropriate pronoun references.

### Overview:

**Lesson 1:** *Pronoun References*

**Lesson 2:** *Types of Pronouns*

### Answer Key

## Lesson 1: Pronoun References



A pronoun is a word that commonly takes the place of a noun or noun phrase. Look at the following examples:

Shakib thought that he had lost the dog, but it had followed him.

**He** and **him** take the place of **Shakib**, a noun; **it** takes the place of **the dog**, a noun phrase. Pronouns thus eliminate the need for awkward repetition.

Pronoun is also called pronoun reference because it refers to the other word or word group which is known as antecedent. Antecedent means ‘going before’, and this term is used because the antecedent usually goes before the pronoun that refers to it:

The old man smiled as he listened to the marching band.

In the example, the antecedent of the pronoun **he** is **the old man** as **he** refers to **the old man**. The antecedent sometimes follows the pronoun that refers to it:

By the time **he** was eight, **Rabindranath** wrote a book of poems.

## Lesson 2: Types of Pronouns



There are eight categories of pronouns. They are as follows:

1. Personal pronoun
2. Demonstrative pronoun
3. Indefinite pronoun
4. Distributive pronoun
5. Relative pronoun
6. Reflexive pronoun and emphatic pronoun
7. Interrogative pronoun
8. Reciprocal pronoun

### 1. Personal Pronouns:

*I, we, you, he, she, it*, they are called Personal Pronoun because they stand for the three persons, (i) the person speaking (ii) the person spoken to, and (iii) the person spoken of.

The Pronouns **I** and **we**, which denote the person or persons speaking, are said to be Personal Pronouns of the First Person. For example -

*We have a nice garden in front of our house. I have planted some new plants in the garden.*

The Pronoun **you**, which denotes the person or persons spoken to, is said to be a Personal Pronoun of the Second Person. ‘*You*’ is used both in singular and plural.

*You are one of the important members of the committee.*

The pronouns *he (she)* and *they*, which denote the person or person spoken of, are said to be Personal Pronouns of the Third Person.

### Case Forms of Pronouns

#### Personal Pronouns

Personal Pronouns	I	He	She	it	we	you	they
Subjective Case	I	He	She	it	we	you	They
Objective Case	Me	Him	Her	it	us	your	Them
Possessive Case	my, mine	His	Her, hers	it	Our, ours	your, yours	their, theirs
Reflexive/Emphatic case	myself	Himself	herself	itself	ourselves	yourself, yourselves	themselves



#### Exercise 01:

In the following sentences, point out the Pronouns and say for what each stands –

1. There were doors all round the hall, but they were all locked.
2. Alice opened the door and found that it led into a small passage.
3. Harry brought his book and laid it on the table.
4. Kamal has lost his dog and cannot find it.
5. The camel is a beast of burden. It is used to carry goods across the desert.
6. The female lion is called a lioness. She has no mane.
7. Birds build their nests in trees.
8. We should train up a child in the way he should go.
9. Shakib stood first in his class and got gold medal for his success.
10. Father said to his son that he was a lazy boy.

### 2. Demonstrative Pronouns

The Pronouns which are used to point out the objects to which they refer are called Demonstrative Pronouns. Consider the following examples –

*This* is our college.

*These* are my books and *those* are yours.

*Both* cars are good; but *this* is better than *that*. I want the *same*. Give me the new *ones*.

### 3. Indefinite Pronouns

An Indefinite Pronoun stands for persons or things, in general. Consider the following examples –

*One* hardly knows what to do.

*One* must not boast of one's own success.

*One* must use one's best efforts if one wishes to succeed.

*None* of his plans worked well.

*None* but fools have ever believed it.

*All* are nonsense.

*Some* are born great.  
*Somebody* has stolen my watch.  
*Nobody* was there to rescue the child.  
*Few* escaped unhurt.  
*Many* of them were laughing.  
*Any* of them can do it.

All these Pronouns in italics refer to persons or things in general way, but do not refer to any person or thing in particular. They are, therefore, called Indefinite Pronoun.

#### 4. Distributive Pronouns

A Distributive Pronoun separates one person or thing from a number of persons or things. Consider the following examples –

*Each* of the boys gets a prize.  
*Each* took it in turn.  
*Either* of these roads leads to the railway station.  
*Either* of you can go.  
*Neither* of the accusations is true.

*Each*, *either*, *neither* are called Distributive Pronouns because they refer to persons or things one at a time. For this reason they are always singular and as such followed by the verb in the singular.

#### 5. Relative Pronouns

A Relative Pronoun refers or relates to some noun going before it, which is called its Antecedent.

Everybody hates a man *who* is a liar.  
I have found the pen *which* I had lost.  
I want the book *that* you borrowed from me.  
This is the man *who* came yesterday.  
I live in a village *which* is beautiful.  
I know that house *that* he lives in.

In these sentences *who*, *which*, *that*, *which* are relative pronouns because they refer to the noun going before.



#### Exercise 02:

**Join the following pair of sentences by using relative pronouns:**

- He bought a house. The house is made of wood and bamboo.
- The boy came here. He is my brother.
- The pen writes well. My father gave me the pen.
- I saw some boys. They were playing in the field.
- He visited the place. Your uncle lives in that place.
- Bangladesh is a small country. There are a lot of fertile land here.



### Exercise 03:

#### Fill the blanks with suitable Relative Pronouns:

- a) We always like boys \_\_\_\_\_ speak the truth.
- b) We saw the dog \_\_\_\_\_ worried the cat.
- c) She has gone to London, \_\_\_\_\_ is her birthplace.
- d) I have seen the bird \_\_\_\_\_ you describe.
- e) I do not know the man \_\_\_\_\_ hit the boy.
- f) Here is the pen \_\_\_\_\_ you lost.
- g) Time \_\_\_\_\_ is lost is never found again.
- h) Where is the book \_\_\_\_\_ I gave you?
- i) Is this the street \_\_\_\_\_ leads to the station?
- j) Do the same \_\_\_\_\_ I do.

#### 6. Reflexive and Emphatic Pronouns

When *-self* is added to *my, your, him, her, it*, and *-selves* to *our, your, them*, they turn into myself, yourself, himself, herself, itself, ourselves, yourselves, themselves, and are called Reflexive Pronouns or Emphatic Pronouns. Reflexive pronouns reflect the action of the verb back at the subject. Consider the following examples –

I hurt *myself*.  
 They took *themselves* to lunch.  
 He killed *himself*.  
 We often deceive *ourselves*.  
 She hanged *herself*.  
 The dog hurt *itself*.

It will be noticed that the Pronouns in italics are called Reflexive Pronouns because the action done by the subject turns back upon the subject.

**Emphatic Pronouns:** when Pronouns are used to put emphasis, they are called Emphatic Pronouns. Consider the examples below –

I will do it *myself*.  
 I *myself* saw him do it.  
 You *yourself* are responsible for that.  
 It is told by the teacher *himself*.  
 The school *itself* is a beautiful place.  
 They *themselves* admitted their guilt.

Here the Pronouns in italics are called Emphatic Pronouns because they are used for the sake of emphasis.

#### 7. Interrogative Pronouns

Interrogative Pronouns are similar in form to Relative but the work which they do is different. They are used to ask questions. Consider the following examples –

*Who* do you want?

*Whom* do you want?  
*Which* do you prefer, tea or coffee?  
*What* is the matter?  
*What* do you want?

Here the pronouns in italics are used to ask questions. Thus, they are Interrogative Pronouns.

### 8. Reciprocal Pronouns

When Pronouns are used to indicate two or more than two persons, they are called Reciprocal Pronouns. Reciprocal Pronouns establish a kind of give and take relationship between the persons. Consider the following examples –

We should help *one another* to live in peace.  
When we work together we should help *each other*.

Here *one another* is used to indicate more than two persons and *each other* is used to indicate two persons.



## Answer Key

### Exercise 01:

1. 'they', 'they' stands for 'doors'
2. 'it', 'it' stands for 'door'
3. 'his', it. 'his' stands for 'Harry' and 'it' stands for 'book'
4. 'his', 'it'. 'his' stands for 'Kamal' and 'it' stands for 'dog'
5. 'It', 'It' stands for 'The Camel'
6. 'She', 'She' stands for 'The female lion'
7. 'their', 'their' stands for 'Birds'
8. 'We' and 'he'. 'We' stands for ourselves and 'he' stands for 'a child'
9. 'his', 'his' stands for 'Shakib'
10. 'his' and 'he'. 'his' stands for 'Father' and 'he' stands for 'son'

### Exercise 02:

- a) He bought a house *which* is made of wood and bamboo.
- b) The boy *who* came here is my brother.
- c) The pen writes well *which* was given to me by my father.
- d) I saw some boys *who* were playing in the field.
- e) He visited the place *where* your uncle lives.
- f) Bangladesh is a small country *where* there are a lot of fertile lands.

### Exercise 03:

- a) (a) who (b) which/that (c) which (d) which/ that (e) who (f) which (g) which/that (h) which/ that (i) which/that (j) what