



What I Need to Know about Pronouns:

An ANTECEDENT: The original noun.

After first mention of an antecedent, a pronoun can be used in its place.

Subject The main idea of the sentence	Object Follows a Preposition or Verb	Possessive Stands alone; ends with s	Possessive Adjective Comes before a noun	Reflexive Sub + Obj = Same Person
I We You He/She /It They	Me Us You Him/Her /It Them	Mine Ours Yours His/Hers /Its Theirs	My Our Your His/Her /Its Their	Myself Ourselves Yourself Himself/Herself /Itself Oneself Themselves

Examples:

Harry took his dog for a walk in the park. He gave him a bone to eat. It was a treat. After an hour spent walking in the park, Harry decided to leave. Watching all the other people in the park leave with their dogs, Harry leashed up his and they headed home. What a day! They enjoyed themselves very much.

The friendly and mysterious INDEFINITE PRONOUNS:

They are called the **Indefinite Pronouns** because we use them when referring to *an unknown amount of people or things*. They are *friendly* because they are useful and *mysterious* because they do not tell the reader the exact amount.

ANY Used "mostly" with Questions and Negative Sentences	SOME Used to describe an <u>unknown but specific</u> singular person/object	EVERY Used to include the <u>entire</u> group of people/objects	NO Used to describe a <u>negative idea</u> about a person/object
Anything Anybody Anyone	Something Somebody Someone	Everything Everybody Everyone	Nothing Nobody *No one

Examples:

Do you know **anybody** who could help me practice my English?

I did not tell **anyone** about your secret!

Somebody left *his* car lights on and *his* car battery is going to die.

(USE masculine pronoun to refer to ALL indefinite pronouns!!!)

I don't know why, but **something** *is* wrong with my foot! It really hurts!

(USE the singular verb forms for ALL indefinite pronouns!!!)

Everything *is* ready for the party tonight!

Did you invite **everybody** to come?



Nothing you said about my boyfriend being a cheater is true!

No *one* is allowed to use *his* book to take this quiz!

Now, let's talk about the **GENERIC NOUNS:**

We know that the word "generic" means general, non-gender specific. When we are referring to a singular generic noun, as in the following cases, we use the **MASCULINE** pronoun to refer to both male and female.

GENERAL STATEMENTS

A teacher helps *his* students to learn. A doctor takes care of *his* patients.

A bus driver takes *his* passengers around the city.

A student must bring *his* book to class if he wants to learn.

A musician practices every day so that *he* can become a professional.

If this does not work for you as a writer and speaker, use the **PLURAL** form and then the proper pronoun reference.

Teachers help *their* students to learn. Doctors take care of *their* patients.

Bus drivers take *their* passengers around the city.

ETC.....

I love my family and they love me! COLLECTIVE NOUNS:

When we talk about collective nouns like "family" we are referring to a group of people in **ONE COLLECTION**.

Family	Class	Team
Group	Audience	Committee
Couple	Crowd	Staff

However, when we use a pronoun to refer back to the antecedent like "family" it can be either singular (the collection) or plural (the people).

Examples:

The soccer team *is* happy because **they** won the game. The team *consists* of 12 members. (ALWAYS subject + verb agreement) (In the 1st sentence, the pronoun **they** is referring back to the antecedent team; in the 2nd sentence, the antecedent could be replaced by the pronoun *it*.)

Kristin's class *is* made up of 16 students; *it* is a large class. **It** is fun because **they** all get along with each other.

That couple is really in love. They really care about one another. However, a couple that fights all the time is not really in love.



The government plans to implement the new tax law by the end of this year. They have been working on upgrading the highways in the city.

Who are YOU? Let's discuss the IMPERSONAL PRONOUNS:

You and One are called impersonal pronouns. Think about what the word "impersonal" means. According to Webster, it means *lacking reference to a specific person.*

Therefore, when you are making a general comment to "any person, people in general" you will use YOU or ONE. The difference, you ask? YOU is INFORMAL and ONE is FORMAL. As you can see from these examples, there is NO ANTECEDENT!

Examples:

You should brush **your** teeth twice a day if **you** want healthy teeth and a fresh breath.

One should brush **his** teeth twice a day if **he** wants healthy teeth and a fresh breath.

You can park **your** car in any spot except for in the handicap parking.

One can park **his** car in any spot except for in the handicap parking.

You are capable of speaking English if **you** practice daily.

One is capable of speaking English if **he** practices daily.

They is also used as an IMPERSONAL PRONOUN when referring to a group of people. Again, there is NO ANTECEDENT. In this case, it is implied.

Be mindful, it is also INFORMAL and most common in speaking.

Examples:

They say that it is important to start taking care of the environment by recycling every day.

"I just got a promotion at work!"

"That's great news! I'm glad they decided to give you an increase in salary."

One OTHER thing to cover...using the forms of OTHER:

	Adjective	Pronoun
Singular Plural	I'd like to drink another beer. Do you have other friends besides me?	I think I'll have another . Yes, I have others !
Singular Plural	I have 2 hands, one is my right and the other hand is my left. Of my 16 students, only 13 are here. Where are the other students?	I have 2 hands, one is my right and the other is my left. Of my 16 students, only 13 are here. Where are the others ?

Another – ALWAYS SINGULAR
The Other – LAST ONE(S) from a SPECIFIC GROUP
Others – ALWAYS a PLURAL PRONOUN



EXPRESSIONS:

Use **ANOTHER** with **TIME, MONEY** and **DISTANCE**

Examples:

Are you finished with the quiz? No, I need **another 5 minutes**, please.

I asked the bank to loan me **another 20 million dollars**, and they said yes!

If you want to lose weight, Bob, you should run **another 3 miles** around the park.

MORE EXPRESSIONS:

THE OTHER – recent past

I saw my boyfriend just **the other day**. I cannot see him every day, which is better!

EVERY OTHER – alternate

You will have homework in this class **every other day**, which means on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

EACH OTHER/ONE ANOTHER – relationship

Xavier and his wife really love **each other**. They take care of one another.

ONE AFTER ANOTHER/ONE AFTER THE OTHER – continuous action

I got so drunk because I drank each beer **one after another**.

Susan was so hungry, so she ate **one slice of pizza after the other**.

OTHER THAN – except

I have nothing to wear to this party **other than** my old black dress, which I hate!

IN OTHER WORDS – to simplify or to say it again clearly *TRANSITION

Studying at Fulbright has many benefits. You can increase your vocabulary, strengthen your listening and reading skills, become a better speaker and make some great friends. **In other words**, study at Fulbright!

NOTES: