

PRONOUNS

10c A *pronoun* is a word used in place of a noun or more than one noun.

EXAMPLES Call Palia and Maria, and tell Palia and Maria to go to the gym.
Call Palia and Maria, and tell **them** to go to the gym.

Singular	I, me, my, mine, you, your, yours, he, him, his, she, her, hers, it, its, myself, yourself, himself, herself, itself, this, that, everybody, someone
Plural	we, us, our, ours, you, your, yours, they, them, their, theirs, ourselves, yourselves, themselves, these, those

The word that a pronoun stands for is called its *antecedent*.

EXAMPLES Although the salad was two days old, **it** tasted fine. [*Salad is the antecedent that it refers to.*]
Javier has planned **his** next report. [*Javier is the antecedent that his refers to.*]



Some teachers prefer to call possessive pronouns (such as *my*, *your*, and *their*) adjectives. Follow your teacher's directions.

EXERCISE 3 Identifying Pronouns

Underline each pronoun in the following sentences. Some sentences contain more than one pronoun.

- EX. 1. Ana was glad that she was wearing gloves.
- The Urus used totora reeds to make those dwellings and boats.
 - Tim told us that this movie was so long that it bored him.
 - Nomads move around to find food for themselves and grazing land for their animals.
 - The coach smiled at her players as she held up their victory banner.
 - Before the actor went on stage, she went over her lines again.
 - We watched the American kangaroo rat hop about on its long hind legs.

7. Nuna's grandfather is teaching her and us how to walk on snowshoes.
8. After George Washington Carver studied the peanut, he knew that it would grow in southern soil.
9. The house is so old that it needs to have bathtubs installed.
10. Our kayakers train steadily for their Olympic white-water runs.
11. "Tennis is my favorite sport," said Terri as she swung at the ball.
12. Sylvia wondered, "Will I last until dinnertime without a snack?"
13. As Craig crossed the finish line, he turned in his wheelchair and waved to the cheering crowd.
14. In their experiment, researchers have found that they can grow plants in Israel's Negev Desert.
15. Chim said, "Paula, do you want to answer that question yourself, or shall I?"

EXERCISE 4 Using Pronouns in Narration

On your own paper, write five sentences about the cartoon below. Write what has happened, what you think will happen next, or what the dog might be saying. In each sentence, use a pronoun. Try to use a variety of pronouns in your sentences. Underline each pronoun, and draw brackets around each pronoun's antecedent.

- EX. [Weederman] is telling his master that he can't get the slippers because he is napping.

ADJECTIVES

10d An *adjective* is a word that modifies a noun or a pronoun.

To *modify* a word means to describe the word or to make its meaning more definite. An adjective modifies a noun or a pronoun by telling *what kind, which one, how much, or how many*.

EXAMPLES Rita went on a **long** journey. [The adjective *long* tells *what kind of journey*.]
 I need to wash **my yellow** sweater. [The adjectives *my* and *yellow* tell *which sweater*.]
 It rained for **forty** days and nights. [The adjective *forty* tells *how many days and nights*.]



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Adjectives usually come before the words they modify. Sometimes, however, an adjective comes after the word it modifies.

EXAMPLE The grass was **brown**. [The adjective *brown* modifies *grass*.]



The adjectives *a*, *an*, and *the* are called *articles*.

EXERCISE 5 Identifying Adjectives

In the following sentences, draw one line under the adjectives and two lines under the noun or pronoun each adjective modifies. Do not include the articles *a*, *an*, and *the*.

- EX. 1. The hungry giraffe peered over the leafy treetops.
- The driest area in the world is a desert in Chile.
 - Put on the red jacket, grab the warmest scarf, and let's go!
 - Would you make a jelly sandwich for my lunch?
 - I have not yet reached the third level of the newest game!
 - Opossums in New Zealand have big eyes, pink noses, and brushy tails.
 - The house was cold and dark when we arrived.

7. In the story, a space traveler crosses a time dimension and lands in a new world.
8. The weather forecaster says that the summer will be long and hot.
9. The strong winds reached fifty miles an hour last night.
10. The bright, frisky cat weighs seven pounds.
11. Sylvia Earle explored deep waters to study sea life.
12. Scott and I are going to make a raisin cake for the class party.
13. Cara made green beans and grilled tomatoes for supper.
14. Steve made a colorful diagram of the taproot system of a carrot plant.
15. Farmers in Mali often work on rugged mountainsides to plant their crops.

EXERCISE 6 Writing Adjectives for a Story

Complete the story below by adding an appropriate adjective for each blank. Do not use the same adjective twice. Write your adjectives on your own paper.

EX. [1] This is an (what kind?) story about a rabbit and a turtle.

1. *amusing*

The Hare and the Tortoise: A Fable Retold

[1] One (what kind?) day in a(n) (what kind?) forest (how many?) years ago, there lived a rabbit and a turtle. [2] The rabbit, quick on its feet, knew that it was (what kind?) than the turtle, who always took its time. [3] Yet, the (what kind?) turtle challenged the rabbit to a race. [4] The (what kind?) rabbit quickly agreed. [5] As soon as the (what kind?) race began, the rabbit took the lead. [6] A (how much?) way ahead of the turtle, the rabbit decided to take a (what kind?) nap. [7] The turtle just kept plodding along the (which one?) path. [8] Eventually the turtle reached the (what kind?) line. [9] When the (what kind?) rabbit woke up, it knew that it was in trouble! [10] The rabbit raced to the finish line, only to find the (what kind?) turtle waiting there.