

Lecture Notes:

- **Pronouns** are words that replace noun phrases. As such, they count as NPs.
- E.g.
The happy children played in the park until they got tired.
 ^Here, the pronoun “they” is replacing the noun phrase “The happy children.”
Sarah didn’t come to work today because she was tired.
 ^Here, the pronoun “she” is replacing the noun phrase “Sarah”.
- Every pronoun has an **antecedent**. The **antecedent** is the noun phrase that gives the pronoun meaning. The antecedent may be found in the same sentence, in the discourse, or simply in the unspoken context.
Note: The antecedent and the pronoun should agree in number. They should both be singular or both be plural.
- E.g.
 The jewelry has lost its glow.
 ^Here, the antecedent of the pronoun “its” is “jewelry”.
Sarah and John made their presentation.
 ^Here, the antecedent of the pronoun “their” is “Sarah and John”.
- Pronouns can carry a lot of grammatical meaning and many inflect to show grammatical distinctions.
- E.g.
 he/she = gender distinction
 it/he = animate and human distinction
 I/we = number distinction
 we/you/they = person distinction
 he/him/his = case distinction
- Table of subject vs object pronouns:

		SUBJECT CASE	OBJECT CASE
FIRST-PERSON			
singular		I	me
plural		we	us
SECOND-PERSON			
singular		you	you
plural		you	you
THIRD PERSON			
singular	masculine	he	him
	feminine	she	her
	neuter	it	it
plural		they	they

- E.g. We can describe the pronoun “she” as: animate (human); feminine; 3rd person; singular; subject pronoun.

- E.g. We can describe the pronoun “her” as: animate (human); feminine; 3rd person; singular; object pronoun.
- When a pronoun occurs in a **conjoined noun phrase**, there can be confusion of the case of the pronoun. A **conjoined noun phrase** is two noun phrases that are joined using the word “and”.
- E.g. of conjoined noun phrases:
A car and a bike.
Sarah and John.
- E.g. of a pronoun occurring in a conjoined noun phrase:
[Me and John] went to the movies today.
Here the noun phrase is the subject of the sentence, yet in informal speech, the object form of the pronoun may appear. If you try omitting the noun and the conjunction, you’ll hear the error immediately.
Me went to the movies today.
- When a sentence contains reference to the same noun phrase, one in the subject and one in the predicate, the second becomes a **reflexive pronoun**, ending in –self/selves.
- E.g.
John saw himself in the mirror.
The children helped themselves to more candies.
- Table of Reflexive Pronouns:

First Person	
Singular	Myself
Plural	Ourselves
Second Person	
Singular	Yourself
Plural	Yourselves
Third Person	
Singular Masculine	Himself
Singular Feminine	Herself
Plural	Themselves

- Reflexive pronouns can be used for emphasis.
- E.g. He himself told me this.
Here, there is a strong emphasis that “he” told me about this.
- Reflexive pronouns are used when the subject of the clause is the same as the object of the clause.
- E.g. I cut myself.
- Sometimes, they are used after prepositions.
- E.g. She did it by herself.

- While the function of the reflexive pronoun is to refer directly back to the antecedent, the **reciprocal pronoun** distributes the action among all of the individuals using “one another” and “each other”. A **reciprocal pronoun** is a pronoun which is used to indicate that two or more people are carrying out or have carried out an action of some type, with both receiving the benefits or consequences of that action simultaneously. Any time something is done or given in return, reciprocal pronouns are used.
Note: There must be two or more people, doing the same thing.
- E.g.
Tom likes Jerry and Jerry likes Tom. → Tom and Jerry like each other.
The children hugged one another.
We gave each other gifts.
The two prisoners were blaming one another.
- Note the difference in meaning between using a reflexive and a reciprocal pronoun:
The candidates shouted at themselves. [Reflexive]
The candidates shouted at one another. [Reciprocal]
- **Indefinite pronouns** refer to indefinite entities or quantities. That is they do not refer to any specific person, thing or amount. They also have no specific antecedent. They can be singular or plural.
- E.g. of singular indefinite pronouns:
 - Nobody
 - Everyone
 - Noone
 - Each
- E.g. of plural indefinite pronouns:
 - Some
 - Few
 - Several
 - Many
 - Others
- E.g.
I spoke to nobody/everyone/noone/some/others.
Many/more/most/few/enough/either/neither/all/several/both/each will go to the party

Textbook Notes:

- **Introduction:**
- **Pronouns** may replace or stand for noun phrases.
- E.g.
Do you like **the books on the shelf**?
Yes, I like **them**.
Here, the pronoun “them” is used to refer to “the books on the shelf.”
- E.g.
The tall woman is famous. **She** has played in many American movies.
Here, the pronoun “she” is used to refer to “the tall woman”.
- The noun phrase that the pronoun replaces and refers to is called **an antecedent**.
Therefore, in the first example, the antecedent of the pronoun ‘them’ is the noun phrase ‘the books on the shelf’ and the antecedent of the pronoun ‘she’ is the noun phrase ‘the tall woman’ in the second example.

- **Personal Pronouns:**

- **Personal pronouns** refer to the topic that is/was talked about (subject) or object that is/was referred to. This means that personal pronouns are mainly the subject or object of the sentence. Pronouns inflect for number. Number refers to singular and plural. Some pronouns are singular (e.g. I, you, he, she, it) or plural (we, you, they). All of personal pronouns except for 'you' have distinct forms signalling number, either **singular or plural**. Pronouns also inflect for a person. For example, in English, **first person** and **second person** personal pronouns (e.g. I, we, you) refer to the speaker and other participants in the conversation. The **third person** pronouns, however, refer to other people or things. **Gender** is not encoded in the English pronouns except for the third person singular pronouns he (masculine) and she (feminine).
- Pronouns that replace noun phrases can function as the subject or the object of the sentence. In this case, we call them **subject pronouns** or **object pronouns**.
- **Subject pronouns** as their name suggests are forms that are used when the pronoun functions as the subject of the sentence.
- E.g.
They are looking for an apartment.
I showed **them** the apartment.
We wrote a great term paper.
- **Object pronouns** are used when the pronoun functions as the object of the sentence.
- E.g.
The old man saw **her**.
Susan loves **it**.
Greg and Sarah decided to buy **them**.
- **Reflexive Pronouns:**
- **Reflexive pronouns** are those ending in –self or –selves. Although similar to personal pronouns, they are used conditionally and must agree in person, number and gender with their antecedents. Reflexive pronouns are used when the subject and the object in a sentence refer to the same entity.
E.g. In 'I cut myself', the subject and the object of the sentence 'I' and 'myself' are the same.
- Reflexive pronouns have different functions:
 1. They are used when the subject and the object are the same. Consider the sentence: 'I rewarded myself'. In this sentence, the subject 'I' is the same as the object 'myself' or we can say the object 'myself' refers to the subject 'I'.
 2. They provide contrast or emphasis. In the sentence: 'I myself made the dinner', the reflexive pronoun is used to mean 'alone, without anyone else'. In this case, the reflexive pronoun comes after the noun phrase that it refers to. For this function, the reflexive pronoun may also come at the end of the sentence: 'I made the dinner myself.'
- **Note:** Reflexive pronouns and their antecedent must agree in number and person.

- Table of Reflexive Pronouns:

	Singular	Plural
First person	myself	ourselves
Second person	yourself	yourselves
Third person		
Masculine	himself	
Feminine	herself	themselves
Neuter	itself	

- Reflexive pronouns are mainly formed from a possessive determiner (e.g. my, your, her, our) and 'self' for singular forms or 'selves' for plural forms.
Note: There are two forms that do not follow this pattern: himself and themselves. For these two forms, we use object pronouns (him and them) rather than the possessive determiners (his and their), respectively.
- **Reciprocal Pronouns:**
- **Reciprocal pronouns** are used to describe a two-way action in a single sentence. There are two reciprocal pronouns in English: each other and one another. These two pronouns may be used interchangeably in modern English. However, historically, each other referred to two entities while one another referred to more than two.
- E.g.
 The garages are close to each other. (only 2)
 The garages are close to one another. (2+)
- Reciprocal pronouns always refer to plural subjects; plurality also describes the way the action is distributed from one entity to another.
- E.g.
 The devoted learners help themselves (reflexive)
 The devoted learners help each other (reciprocal)
- **Demonstrative Pronouns:**
- In English, there are four **demonstrative pronouns**, this, these, that and those that indicate location in relation to the speaker as well as number agreement. While demonstrative determiners identify the head noun in a noun phrase, as in 'those cats', they may also replace noun phrases.
- E.g. Those are mine! ('those' may refer to anything: those sheets, those books, etc.)
- **Note:** Demonstrative pronouns are not followed by any nouns. However, demonstrative determiners are followed by head nouns.