

PRONOUNS

Academic Skills Center Room 1501 Shoreline Community College

PRONOUNS are words that substitute for nouns, for example, *he* = John, *she* = Mary, *it* = dog.

Common Pronouns: I, me, we, us, my, mine, our, ourselves, you, your, yourself, someone, everyone, somebody, everybody, she, he, they, them, themselves, their, it, its, that, which, who, whom, whoever

RULE 1: Every pronoun has a referent it substitutes for.

Examples : Give **it** to Luu. ("it" = book, so "book" is the referent)
Give the book to **him**. ("him" = Luu, so Luu is the referent)
She gave **it** to **him**. ("She" = Mary (referent), "it" = book (referent), "him" = Luu (referent))

RULE 2: No pronoun has an apostrophe.

Examples: **Its** coat is rough. This one is **his**. Those cars are **theirs**.

RULE 3: These *possessive* pronouns CAN BE SUBJECTS by themselves: mine, ours, its, his, hers, yours, theirs. In a sentence, they act as singular or plural depending upon the number of things owned (one or more).

Examples : Their book is new. **Theirs** is new.
Their books are new. **Theirs** are new.

RULE 4: These *possessive* pronouns are NEVER SUBJECTS by themselves: my, our, your, him, her, their, whom.

Examples : My car is being repaired in the shop.
This is her book.
Their dog dug a ditch along the fence.

RULE 5: These pronouns are also NEVER SUBJECTS: myself, ourselves, yourself, himself, herself, itself, themselves.

Examples : They gave **themselves** a pat on the back.
The toddler dressed **herself**.

RULE 6: These pronouns are SOMETIMES SUBJECTS: it, you, yours, its, mine, ours, his, hers, theirs.

Examples: **It** is the one I gave to you. ("It" = S)
I gave **it** to you. ("it" is NOT the S)
You must register for the class before Friday. ("You" = S)
Take the books with **you** to class. ("you" is NOT the S)
Yours is on the table. ("Yours" = S)
That book on the table is **yours**. ("yours" is NOT the S)

RULE 7: These pronouns are ALWAYS SUBJECTS: I, he, she, we, they, who, whoever.

Examples : **She** drove the car for 20 minutes before falling asleep.
Phillip is the student **who** took 18 credits last quarter.
If **we** build a stadium, **they** will come.