

11.6

Reflexive and Intensive Pronouns

Reflexive and intensive pronouns are formed by adding *-self* or *-selves* to certain personal and possessive pronouns.

Reflexive and Intensive Pronouns	
Singular	Plural
myself	ourselves
yourself	yourselves
himself, herself, itself	themselves

REFLEXIVE
PRONOUN

Sometimes *hisself* is mistakenly used for *himself* and *theirselves* for *themselves*. Avoid using *hisself* and *theirselves*.



The woman bought **herself** a book by Horatio Alger.

REFLEXIVE PRONOUN!



Horatio Alger **himself** wrote more than one hundred books.

I **myself** have never read his books.

Reflexive and intensive pronouns have special uses. They should never be used as the subject of a sentence or as the object of a verb or preposition.

Yolanda and I read *Sink or Swim*. [not *Yolanda and myself*]

It pleased Yolanda and **me**. [not *Yolanda and myself*]

Pronouns

Exercise 10**Identifying Reflexive and Intensive Pronouns**

Write each reflexive and intensive pronoun and identify it as a *reflexive pronoun* or an *intensive pronoun*.

1. You should occupy yourselves by reading one of Edgar Allan Poe's tales.
2. His first three books of poetry were themselves not successful.
3. Poe did not think himself a writer of inferior material.
4. Poe himself had a high opinion of his abilities.
5. One of his first tales was superb; the tale itself won a \$100 prize.
6. One of the contest judges himself got Poe a job as a magazine editor.
7. Edgar Allan Poe has endeared himself to readers of the macabre.
8. I myself would not read any of his short stories at night.
9. Poe may not be the author for you; only you yourself can decide.
10. You can get yourself a book of his stories and poems from the library.

Exercise 11**Using Reflexive and Intensive Pronouns**

Write the correct pronoun in parentheses. Write whether the pronoun is a *reflexive*, *intensive*, *subject*, or *object* pronoun.

1. I (me, myself) wrote a review of a book by Horatio Alger.
2. I found (me, myself) inspired by the characters' adventures.
3. Read a story (yours, yourself) about making hard work into a fortune.
4. Alger's life (it, itself) seems like one of his success stories.
5. Harvard Divinity School was near his home; Alger attended (it, itself).
6. His church congregation thought (themselves, themselves) lucky.
7. Alger thought (hissself, himself) ambitious and moved to New York.
8. He helped the homeless; (they, themself) became characters in his stories.
9. The characters improve (them, themselves) through work and luck.
10. Yusuf and Tony (themselves, theirselves) were impressed by Alger's books.
11. Horatio Alger (he, himself) lived from 1832 to 1899.
12. Alger's birthplace (it, itself) attracts visitors.
13. We enjoyed (us, ourselves) during a visit to his home.
14. Alger's stories (them, themselves) usually take place in large cities.
15. A friend and (I, myself) have read ten of Alger's books.
16. Alger's style seems warm and light to (me, myself).
17. For Alger, ambition (it, itself) can bring about success.
18. According to (him, himself), any child could become a success.
19. (He or she, Themselves) just has to be intelligent, hard-working, and honest.
20. Alger's books became symbols of success (theirselves, themselves).

11.7

Interrogative and Demonstrative Pronouns

The interrogative pronouns *who* and *whom* both refer to people. *Who* is used when the interrogative pronoun is the subject of the sentence. *Whom* is used when the interrogative pronoun is the object of a verb or a preposition.

Who borrowed the book? [subject]

Whom did the librarian call? [direct object]

For **whom** did you borrow the book? [object of preposition]

Which and *what* are used to refer to things and ideas.

What interests you? **Which** is it?

Whose shows that someone possesses something.

I found a copy of *Great Expectations*. **Whose** is it?

When writing, be careful not to confuse *whose* with *who's*. *Who's* is the contraction of *who is*.

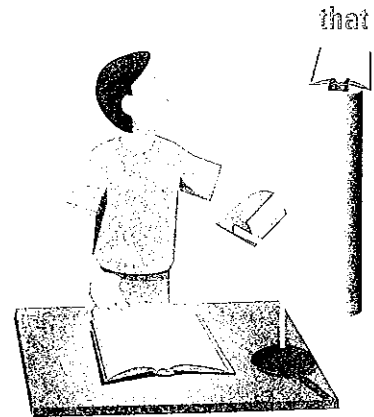
The demonstrative pronouns are *this*, *that*, *these*, and *those*. *This* (singular) and *these* (plural) refer to something nearby. *That* (singular) and *those* (plural) refer to something at a distance.

This is an interesting book. [singular, nearby]

These are interesting books. [plural, nearby]

That is a long book. [singular, at a distance]

Those are long books. [plural, at a distance]



this

that

Exercise 12**Using Interrogative and Demonstrative Pronouns**

Write the correct word given in parentheses.

1. (These, This) is Arturo's favorite book.
2. From (who, whom) did you get that copy?
3. (That, Those) is the small orphan named Pip.
4. (That, Those) are Pip's books.
5. (Who, Whom) taught Pip about books?
6. With (who, whom) does Pip live?
7. (This, These) are Pip's sister and her husband.
8. (Who, Whom) does Pip meet?
9. (What, Who) does the stranger want?
10. (This, These) is food for the stranger.

Exercise 13**Distinguishing Between Pronouns and Contractions**

Write the correct word given in parentheses. Then write *I* if your choice is an *interrogative* pronoun, *D* if it is a *demonstrative* pronoun, or *C* if it is a *contraction*.

1. (Whose, Who's) Joe?
2. To (who, whom) was Joe married?
3. (Who's, Whose) Miss Havisham?
4. (This, These) is the mansion of Miss Havisham.
5. (That, These) was the time on the clocks.
6. (This, Those) are her bridal robes.
7. (Who, Whom) did Miss Havisham see?
8. (This, These) was the girl at Miss Havisham's home.
9. To (who, whom) did Estella get married?
10. (This, What) are Pip's great expectations?
11. (Who, Whom) becomes Pip's guardian?
12. (That, These) is a mystery.
13. (Who's, Which) of the schools does Pip attend?
14. To (who, whom) does Pip turn for help?
15. (What, Who) did Lawyer Jaggers give Pip?
16. (Who, Whom) paid Lawyer Jaggers?
17. (This, These) are the payments from the stranger.
18. (What, Who) became of the stranger?
19. (What, Who's) helping Pip now?
20. (Whose, Who's) the author of this novel?

PRONOUNS

The following passage is from a biography of Emily Dickinson by Bonita Thayer. In addition to writing nearly eighteen hundred poems, Dickinson wrote many letters to friends. These letters reveal much about her thinking at different periods of her life. In the passage below, Thayer quotes from Dickinson's letters to Colonel Higginson, a writer and abolitionist (someone who opposed slavery). The passage has been annotated to show examples of the kinds of pronouns covered in this unit.

Literature Model

from Emily Dickinson
by Bonita E. Thayer

Some of Emily's letters to Higginson reveal her feelings about the public in general. "Truth is such a rare thing, it is delightful to tell it," she says in one note. Later she asks him, "How do most people live without any thoughts? There are many people in the world—you must have noticed many in the street—how do they live? How do they get strength to put on their clothes in the morning?"

She seemed satisfied with her life as she was living it. Her own thoughts filled her mind and were joined with the thoughts of others whose writings she studied.

"There is no frigate like a book to take us lands away," she wrote. She felt that she could travel the world and meet all the people she wanted to through books. She never had to leave her own home, which she considered to be the best and safest place for her.

Indefinite Pronoun

Subject Pronoun
agrees with its
antecedent,
Emily

Object pronoun
agrees with its
antecedent,
many people

Possessive
Pronoun

Pronouns

Grammar Review

Review Exercise 1

Using Subject, Object, and Possessive Pronouns

Write each sentence, replacing the underlined word or words with the correct pronoun. Write whether the pronoun you used is a *subject* pronoun, an *object* pronoun, or a *possessive* pronoun.

1. Emily Dickinson avoided having Dickinson's picture taken.
2. Dickinson had one photograph taken at about age sixteen.
3. The author craved biographies and portraits about literary favorites.
4. Dickinson started writing poetry in Dickinson's early twenties.
5. The thought of publishing her poems was abhorrent to Dickinson.

Review Exercise 2

Using Pronouns and Antecedents

Write the second sentence in each of the following pairs, using the correct pronoun in each blank. Then write the antecedent of the pronoun with its number (singular or plural) and gender (masculine, feminine, or neuter).

After their mother's death, Emily and her sister, Lavinia, became recluses. Emily and _____ never left home.

Emily and she never left home. Lavinia, singular, feminine

1. Emily Dickinson was born in Amherst, Massachusetts, in 1830. _____ was the daughter of Edward and Emily.
2. Dickinson's father was a Renaissance man. _____ was a lawyer, a politician, and a college treasurer.
3. The poet's brother, named William Austin, was always called Austin. _____ was the oldest child and only son.
4. The mother's job was care of the family. _____ was an important task.
5. Austin became treasurer at the same college as the father. Eventually Austin succeeded _____ father.
6. Austin married Susan Gilbert. The father built _____ a house next door.
7. Dickinson and her sister, Lavinia, never married. _____ lived at home all their lives.
8. After the father died, the mother became paralyzed. _____ was confined to bed.
9. Emily and Lavinia shared the task of caring for the mother. Both took good care of _____.
10. The three children were close in age. _____ were devoted to one another.

Review Exercise 3**Using Subject and Object Pronouns Correctly**

Write the correct pronoun in parentheses. Then write whether each pronoun is a *subject* pronoun or an *object* pronoun.

1. Emily and (she, her) were sisters and friends.
2. (She, Her) and Charles Wadsworth were friends and correspondents.
3. Dickinson and (he, him) were friends and companions.
4. The poet and a friend corresponded with Thomas Higginson and (he, him).
5. (She, Her) and other poets wrote poems and letters.
6. (They, Them) and others are published in English and other languages.
7. Emily's poems and letters amused those students and (we, us).
8. An editor and (her, she) gave the poems numbers but no titles.
9. (Me and Surya, Surya and I) read poem 812 and poem 1017 today.
10. Poem 173 and poem 188 made Akim and (me, I) smile.

Review Exercise 4**Using Indefinite Pronouns**

Write each sentence, using the correct verb in parentheses. Then underline the indefinite pronoun and write whether it is *singular* or *plural*.

Some of her poetry (is, are) deceptively simple.

Some of her poetry is deceptively simple. *Singular*

1. Many (consider, considers) Dickinson one of the best American poets of the nineteenth century.
2. Few of her poems (was, were) published during her lifetime, perhaps only seven.
3. Most of her poems (is, are) very brief.
4. All of her work (is, are) interesting.
5. Some of her poems (was, were) circulated among her close friends.
6. Everything in her poems (reveal, reveals) her love of nature.
7. Everyone (like, likes) the spoofing fun of her valentines.
8. Much (has, have) been written about how she never left home.
9. Several of us (enjoy, enjoys) her work.
10. Something about her poetry (capture, captures) the reader's imagination.

Grammar Review

Review Exercise 5

Using Subject, Object, Reflexive, and Intensive Pronouns

Write the correct pronoun given in parentheses. Write whether the pronoun is a *reflexive*, *intensive*, *subject*, or *object* pronoun.

1. Dickinson (she, herself) knew that her words could attract readers.
2. But she did not want the readers (theirselves, themselves) at her door.
3. In midlife she rarely left the Dickinson property (it, itself).
4. Within the homestead, (she, herself) had an active life.
5. The poet had many friends and wrote many letters to (them, themselves).
6. Friends and neighbors brought the outside world to (her, herself).
7. The garden needed tending in summer; she did that (itself, herself).
8. The cause of her reclusiveness (it, itself) is not fully understood.
9. She may have made the choice (her, herself) to remain in seclusion.
10. Emily Dickinson was devoted to her parents and took care of (them, themselves) until they died.

Review Exercise 6

Using Interrogative and Demonstrative Pronouns

Write the correct word given in parentheses.

1. _____ (Who, Whom) was the most important influence on her poetry?
Who
2. To (who, whom) did Dickinson send the first samples of her poetry?
3. (This, These) are the first four poems she showed him.
4. (What, Whose) was his opinion of the poems?
5. (This, What) were the questions he asked of the poet?
6. (Which, Whom) are the three poems she sent in reply?
7. (What, Which) did writer Helen Hunt Jackson think of the poetry?
8. (Who's, Whose) poetry did Jackson praise?
9. (This, These) is the poetry Dickinson's niece brought to the publisher.
10. (Whose, Who's) idea was it to publish only some of them?
11. (That, Those) were the last of her poems to be published.