

What Is a Pronoun?

Teaching

A **pronoun** is a word that is used in place of a noun or another pronoun. The word that a personal pronoun refers to is called its **antecedent**.

Personal pronouns change their forms to reflect **person, number, and case**.

Person Personal pronouns have different forms for first person, second person, and third person.

Number Pronouns can be singular or plural.

Case Personal pronouns change their forms depending on how they are used in a sentence. Each pronoun has three cases: subject, object, and possessive.

		Subject	Object	Possessive
Singular	First Person	I	me	my, mine
	Second Person	you	you	your, yours
	Third Person	he, she, it	him, her, it	his, her, hers, its
Plural	First Person	we	us	our, ours
	Second Person	you	you	your, yours
	Third Person	they	them	their, theirs

Finding Personal Pronouns

Underline each personal pronoun in the following sentences.

1. Have you ever heard of the Underground Railroad?
2. It played an important part in our history.
3. What we call the Underground Railroad was actually a system that helped slaves escape to freedom.
4. Its secret way of moving slaves northward gave the Underground Railroad its name.
5. The slaves traveled by night with their few possessions.
6. During the day, kind and brave people sheltered and fed them.
7. It was a long, dangerous journey to the North and freedom.
8. If escaped slaves were caught, they would be sent back to their masters.
9. Returned slaves knew terrible punishments awaited them.
10. Many people are famous for helping their fellow human beings during this time.
11. Levi Coffin used his home as a station on the Underground Railroad.
12. He helped more than 3,000 people escape.
13. Harriet Tubman relied on her skills as a guide; she led many groups of slaves to freedom.
14. I think all Americans should know about the Underground Railroad.

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More Practice

A. Finding Personal Pronouns

Underline each personal pronoun in the following sentences.

1. What does the word *abolitionist* mean to you?
2. An abolitionist spoke out against slavery before and during our Civil War.
3. Sojourner Truth was a well-known abolitionist in her day.
4. She was a former slave named Isabella Baumfree.
5. Her stirring speeches on slavery convinced many people of its evils.
6. She met with Abraham Lincoln when he was president.
7. Not only was Frederick Douglass an abolitionist, but he was also a conductor on the Underground Railroad.
8. Through his efforts many slaves escaped from their masters.
9. He was a noted author and published his own newspaper, the *North Star*.
10. His writings can still inspire us today.
11. We owe a debt of gratitude to people like them.
12. They made Americans aware of a terrible problem in our country.

B. Using Personal Pronouns

Replace the underlined nouns in this paragraph with personal pronouns. Write the pronouns on the lines below. Capitalize the pronoun if it comes at the beginning of a sentence.

Harriet Beecher Stowe lived in the United States during the Civil War. (1) Harriet Beecher Stowe was an author who felt strongly about the issue of slavery. (2) Harriet Beecher Stowe's most famous book was *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. (3) Uncle Tom's Cabin was a novel that told a sad story about slaves and the (4) slaves' harsh treatment by the (5) slaves' masters. Many people, especially the Southern slaveowners, were upset by the book. (6) People protested what they felt was an unfair picture of slavery in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Other Americans became inspired by the book. (7) These Americans realized more than ever before that slavery was wrong. *Uncle Tom's Cabin* turned (8) Americans against the evils of slavery. Now the book and the (9) book's author are a part of American history.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____