

SECTION 13 personal pronouns; possessives

● grammar summary

<i>I, you, he, she, it, we, they</i>	<i>me, you, him, her, it, us, them</i>
<i>my, you, his, her, its, your, their</i>	<i>mine, yours, his, hers, yours, theirs</i>
<i>myself, yourself, himself, herself, itself, ourselves, themselves</i>	<i>each other</i>

We use **pronouns** when it is not necessary, or not possible, to use a more exact noun phrase.

Mrs Parker phoned. She said ... (The speaker uses the personal pronoun *she* because it is not necessary to repeat *Mrs Parker*.)

Ann talks to herself all the time. (It is unnecessary to repeat *Ann*.)

In this section we explain **personal pronouns** (*I, me, you* etc); **possessives** (*my, your* etc and *mine, yours* etc); **reflexive pronouns** (*myself, yourself* etc), and ***each other***.

Indefinite pronouns (*somebody, anything* etc) are explained in Section 12 together with *some* and *any*, on page 165.

Relative pronouns (*who, which* etc) are explained in Section 18 on pages 237–244.

● pre-test: which units do you need?

Try this small test. It will help you to decide which units you need. The answers are on page 284.

① Correct (✓) or not (X)?

▷ We were early. ✓

▷ They were all late. X

1 'Did you like France?' 'I thought it was wonderful.' ...

2 'Where are your gloves?' 'I've lost it.' ...

3 'Shall we go out?' 'No, is snowing.' ...

4 'Where's John?' 'That's he over there.' ...

5 'Who said that?' 'It was me.' ...

6 Where's mine car? ...

7 This isn't my coat. It's her. ...

8 Joe and Pat think our house is nicer than theirs. ...

9 Ann and Peter write to themselves every week. ...

10 Joe and Mary telephone each other every day. ...

11 I'm teaching myself to play the guitar. ...

12 The President himself answered my letter. ...

② His, her or their?

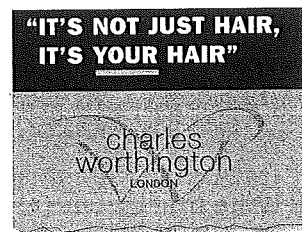
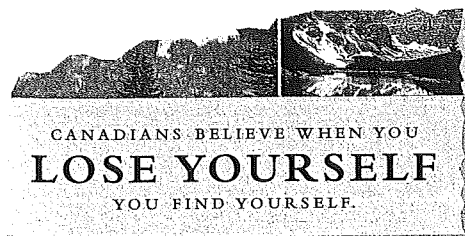
▷ Ann lives with *her*..... mother.

1 Mary's gone to see brother.

2 Cathy's lost keys.

3 John needs to phone wife.

4 Joe and Pat want to sell house.



personal pronouns: *I* and *me* etc

SUBJECTS	<i>I</i>	<i>you</i>	<i>he</i>	<i>she</i>	<i>it</i>	<i>we</i>	<i>they</i>
OTHER USES	<i>me</i>	<i>you</i>	<i>him</i>	<i>her</i>	<i>it</i>	<i>us</i>	<i>them</i>

SUBJECTS: *I, HE* ETC

OBJECTS: *ME* ETC

AFTER PREPOSITIONS: *ME* ETC

AFTER *BE*: *ME* ETC

INFORMAL ANSWERS: *ME* ETC

I like Mary.

He needs help.

They want your address.

Mary doesn't like me.

Help him.

Don't tell them anything.

Look at me.

Why is Jane with him?

Is that for us?

'Who's there?' 'It's me.' (NOT USUALLY *'It is I.'*)

'Is that Joe?' 'Yes, that's him.'

'Who said that?' 'Me.' *'I'm tired.'* *'Me too.'*

1 Circle the correct answer.

▷ *(I)* / *Me* don't understand.

1 'Who said that?' 'It was *she* / *her*.'

2 Tell *we* / *us* your address.

3 This isn't for you, it's for *he* / *him*.

4 I don't think *they* / *them* are here today.

5 'Where's your brother?' 'That's *he* / *him* over there.'

6 Where are the children? Can you see *they*? / *them*?

7 Ask *she* / *her* why *she* / *her* is crying.

2 Put in *he, him, she, her, they* or *them*.

1 'Does your father speak English?' '..... understands a little.'

2 'I'm seeing Lucy and Pete on Tuesday.' 'Oh, give my love.'

3 'Mr Carter's here.' 'Ask to wait downstairs.'

4 Where are your friends? 're very late.

5 'Have you spoken to Mrs Lewis?' 'Not yet. I'm going to phone this evening.'

6 'Where's Ann?' '.....'s in Germany all this week.'

We use *it, they* and *them* for things, including (usually) countries and animals.

I like Scotland, but it's cold in winter.

She sold her horse because it cost too much.

3 Put in *it, they* or *them*.

1 'Where are my keys?' '.....'re on that chair.'

2 'Where did that cat come from?' '..... came in through the window.'

3 'What did you think of the film?' '.....'s not very good.'

4 'What shall I do with these letters?' 'Just put on the table.'

5 'Can I have John's address?' 'I'll give to you this afternoon.'

6 'Did you enjoy your holiday in Ireland?' 'Yes, 's a wonderful place.'

7 'Where are your glasses?' 'I've lost'

8 'Would you like tickets for the concert?' 'How much do cost?'

We use *it* to talk about times, dates, distances and the weather.

It's five o'clock.

It's Tuesday.

It's December 17th today.

It's my birthday.

It's 20 miles from my house to the centre of Oxford.

It's cold today.

It's raining.

4 Write true answers to these questions beginning *It's* ...

1 What time is it? *It's*

3 What's the date?

2 What day is it?

4 How far is it to London?

We **don't** usually **leave out** personal pronouns. (For exceptions in spoken English, see page 271.)

Jan arrived in America in 1976. **He** found a job in a clothes shop. (NOT ~~Found a job~~ ...)

'What languages do you know?' 'I can speak some German.' (NOT ~~'Can speak~~ ...')

'Is your room OK?' 'Yes, I like it.' (NOT ~~'Yes, I like~~ ...')

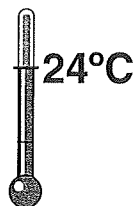
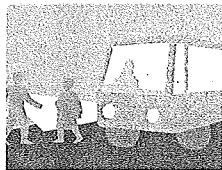
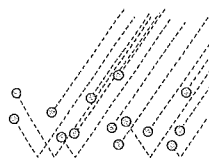
5 Write answers, using I, you, etc.

- ▶ 'What time is the next train?' (8.30, leaves, at)
'It leaves at 8.30.'
- 1 'Where's John?' (has, London, to, moved)
.....
- 2 'Have you seen my glasses?' (on, chair, are, that)
.....
- 3 'What do you think of my new shoes?' (like)
.....
- 4 'What's Elisabeth going to do?' (medicine, study, going to, is)
.....
- 5 'I'm learning Greek.' 'Is it easy?' (No, difficult, is)
.....

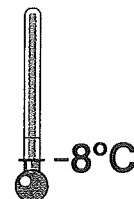
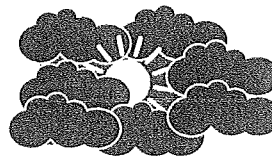
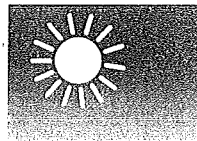
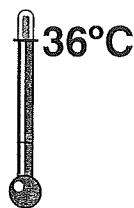
6 GRAMMAR AND VOCABULARY: weather

Make sure you know the adjectives and verbs in the box. Use a dictionary if necessary. Then label the pictures.

ADJECTIVES: cloudy	cold	foggy ✓	hot	sunny	warm	windy
VERBS: hail ✓	rain	snow				



▶ It's hailing..... ▶ It's foggy..... 1 2 3



4 5 6 7 8

In conversation, we often use **me** after **and** in subjects. Many people feel this is incorrect.

John and me saw a great film last night. (More 'correct': *John and I* ...)

possessives: *my, your* etc *This is my coat.*

<i>I</i>	→ <i>my</i>	<i>This is my coat.</i>
<i>you</i>	→ <i>your</i>	<i>That's your problem.</i>
<i>he</i>	→ <i>his</i>	<i>John's visiting his mother.</i>
<i>she</i>	→ <i>her</i>	<i>Ann looks like her brothers.</i>
<i>it</i>	→ <i>its</i>	<i>The club has its meetings on Tuesdays.</i>
<i>we</i>	→ <i>our</i>	<i>Our friends Joe and Pat are staying with us.</i>
<i>they</i>	→ <i>their</i>	<i>The children have spent all their money.</i>
<i>who?</i>	→ <i>whose?</i>	<i>Whose coat is this?</i>

Possessives **don't change** for singular and plural.

our friend *our friends* (NOT ~~ours-friends~~)

Note how we use *his* and *her*: if a boy or man has something, we use *his*; if a girl or woman has something, we use *her*.

I saw John and his sister yesterday. (NOT ... ~~John and her sister~~ ...)

Mary and her brother are students. (NOT ~~Mary and his brother~~ ...)

We often use possessives with **parts of the body** and **clothes**.

Phil has broken his arm. (NOT ~~Phil has broken the arm.~~)

She stood there with her eyes closed and her hands in her pockets.

① Put in the correct possessives.

- ▷ Ann's lost*her*..... keys.
- ▷ Would you like to wash*your*..... hands?
- 1 Peter says wife is ill.
- 2 We're taking holiday in June.
- 3 car is that outside?
- 4 My bank has changed name.
- 5 I'm going to sell motorbike.
- 6 My students have got exam next week.
- 7 John writes to girlfriend every day.
- 8 Ann lives with father in Portugal.
- 9 Please put coats upstairs.
- 10 Robert broke leg skiing last winter.
- 11 'What film did you see?' 'Sorry, I've forgotten name.'



'Your loving son,'

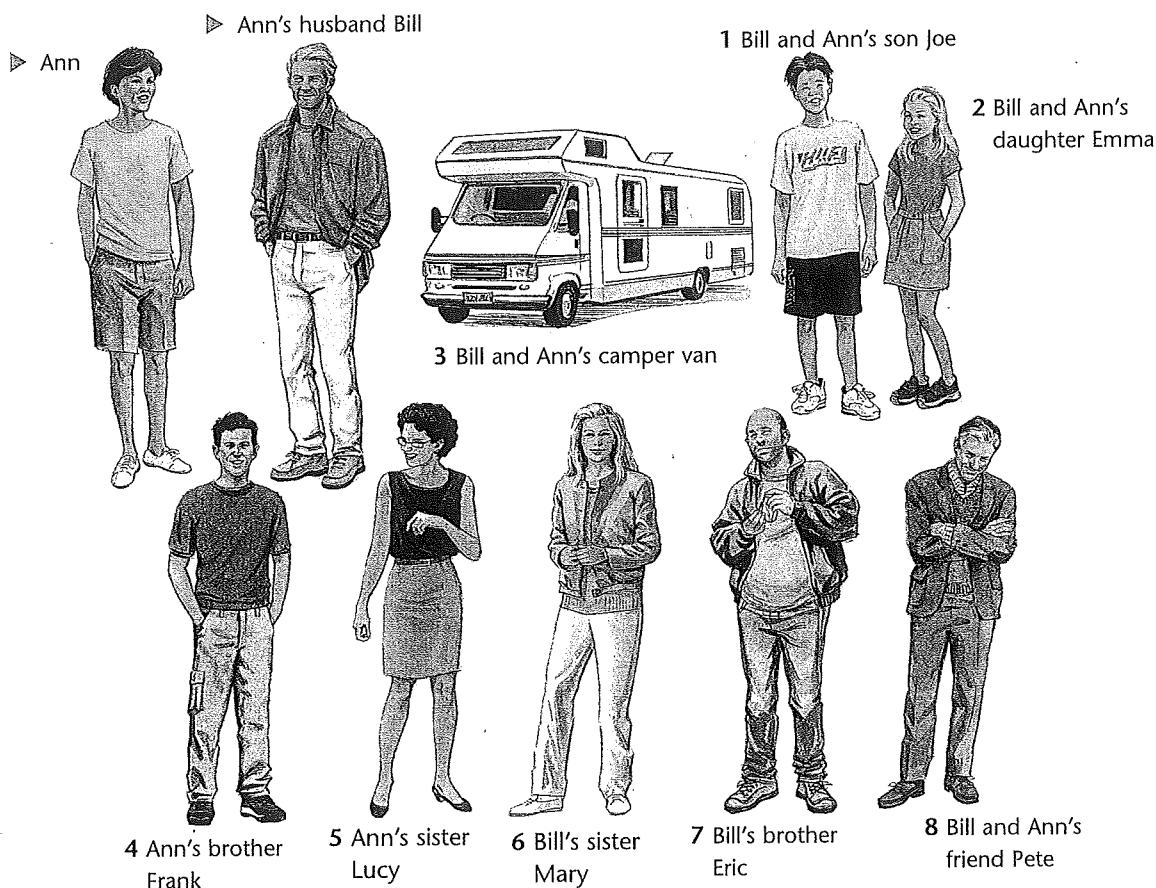
2 Who sold what to who? Make sentences.

ANN: car → JOHN: bike → PETER: dog → MARY: house → PAT AND SAM: motorbike → BILL: piano →
ALICE: coat → MICHAEL: camera → HELEN: guitar → MARILYN: hair-dryer → TOM: dictionary → ANN

- ▶ Ann sold her car to John. 6
1 John sold to Peter. 7
2 Peter 8
3 9
4 10
5

3 Look at the picture and complete the text.

▶ Ann and ▶ her husband Bill went on holiday with 1
and 2 in 3 There's room for six in the van, so Ann invited
4 to go with them, but she didn't ask 5, because Bill
doesn't get on with Lucy. Bill asked 6, but she said no, because she doesn't like
Frank. Then Bill asked 7, but he wasn't free. However, 8
was happy to go with them, so everything was OK.



We don't use *a/an, the, this* or *that* before possessives.

my car (NOT *the my car*) *this idea* OR *my idea* (NOT *this my idea*)

Don't confuse *its* (possessive) and *it's* (= 'it is' or 'it has' – see page 277). Compare:

The company had its annual meeting yesterday. It's losing a lot of money.

possessives: *mine, yours* etc *This is mine.*

DETERMINER	PRONOUN
<i>my</i> coat	<i>mine</i>
<i>your</i> car	<i>yours</i>
<i>his</i> chair	<i>his</i>

DETERMINER	PRONOUN
<i>her</i> book	<i>hers</i>
<i>our</i> house	<i>ours</i>
<i>their</i> problem	<i>theirs</i>

We use *mine, yours* etc without nouns. Compare:

That's not my coat. This is mine. (NOT This is the mine.) *Is that your car? I thought yours was a Ford.*
Their garden is much bigger than ours.

We can use the question word *whose* with or without nouns.

Whose coat is that? *Whose is that coat?*

① Change the sentences.

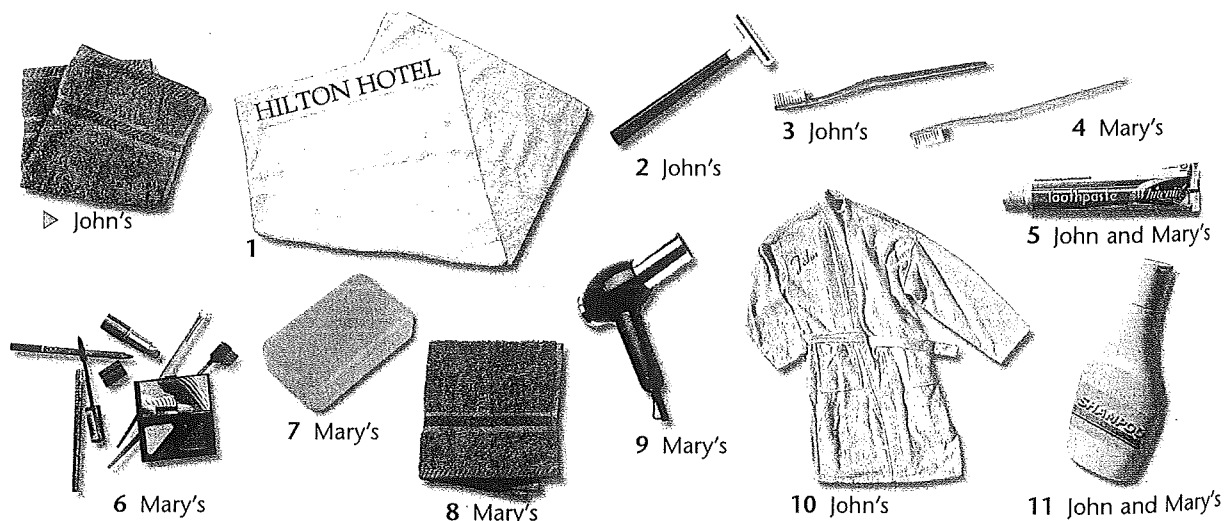
- ▷ *That's my newspaper.* *That's mine.*
- 1 I prefer our house to *their* house. I prefer our house to
- 2 Her hair looks better than *your* hair. Her hair
- 3 *Your* hair looks terrible.
- 4 That dog looks like *our* dog.

② GRAMMAR AND VOCABULARY: the bathroom

Look at the pictures of John and Mary's bathroom, and use the words in the box to make sentences with *his, hers* or *theirs*. Use a dictionary if necessary.

dressing-gown	hair-dryer	make-up	razor	shampoo	soap	toothbrush
toothbrush	toothpaste	towel	washcloth ✓	washcloth		

- ▷ *The red washcloth is his.* 6
- 1 The is not theirs. 7
- 2 8
- 3 9
- 4 10
- 5 11



reflexive pronouns: *myself, yourself* etc

<i>I</i> → <i>myself</i>	<i>you</i> → <i>yourself</i>	<i>he</i> → <i>himself</i>	<i>she</i> → <i>herself</i>	<i>it</i> → <i>itself</i>
<i>we</i> → <i>ourselves</i>	<i>you</i> → <i>yourselves</i>	<i>they</i> → <i>themselves</i>		

We use *myself, yourself* etc when an **object** is the **same** person/thing as the **subject**.

I cut myself shaving this morning. (NOT I-cut-me-...) *We must ask ourselves some questions.*
He tried to kill himself. (Different from He tried to kill him.)

1 Circle the correct answer.

- 1 She doesn't love *him / himself*.
- 2 She likes looking at *her / herself* in the mirror.
- 3 Old people often talk to *them / themselves*.
- 4 I'm going out tonight, so you will all have to cook for *yourself / yourselves*.
- 5 I like Bill, but I don't understand *him / himself*.

2 Put in *myself, yourself* etc.

- 1 I'm teaching to play the guitar.
- 2 'Who's John talking to?'
- 3 Get a drink for
- 4 We really enjoyed last night.
- 5 Mary talks about all the time.
- 6 Find chairs for and sit down.
- 7 They just want to make money for

We can also use *myself* etc to emphasise – to say '*that person/thing and nobody/nothing else*'.

It's best if you do it yourself. *I want to speak to the manager himself, not his secretary.*

3 Put in *myself, yourself* etc.

- 1 Did you cut your hair
- 2 Peter and Ann built their house
- 3 I answer all my letters
- 4 Can you repair this, or must we do it
- 5 We got a letter from the Queen

Note the difference between *ourselves* etc and *each other*.



They're looking at themselves.



They're looking at each other.

4 Each other or -selves?

- 1 Henry and Barbara write to every week.
- 2 Joe and Pat have bought a flat for
- 3 Do you and Mary tell everything?
- 4 You'll need photos of for your passports.
- 5 Ann and I have known for years.

GRAMMAR AND VOCABULARY: some common expressions with reflexive pronouns

by myself/yourself etc (= 'alone') *enjoy myself/yourself* etc *Take care of yourself.*
Help yourself. (= 'Take what you want.') *Make yourself comfortable.*

test yourself personal pronouns; possessives

1 Complete the table.

I	me	my	mine	myself
	you			
he		his		
			hers	
	it		—	
		our		
				yourselves
they				

2 Circle the correct answers.

- John and *his / her / their* wife have gone to Greece.
- Ann's lost *his / her / its* keys.
- That's not *me / my / mine* coat.
- This coat is *me / my / mine*.
- Their house is much bigger than *our / ours / my*.
- Who / Who's / Whose* is this bag?
- That dog has hurt *it's / its / their* ear.
- They've taken my car: *they / their / theirs* isn't running.
- 'Who did that?' 'It was *I / me*.'
- 'What about this music?' '*I like*.' / '*I like it*.'
- 'Which is your sister?' 'That's *she / her* in the red dress.'
- There are / It is* five miles to the nearest station.
- It is / We are* Tuesday.
- I *got up / got myself up* very late this morning.
- Ann and I write to *ourselves / each other* every week.
- Let's *meet / meet ourselves / meet each other* at 8.00 this evening.
- I really *enjoyed / enjoyed myself* at your party.
- Don't help me – I want to do it *I / me / myself*.
- Peter's here with *his / her / their* two sisters.
- Its / It's / They are* five o'clock.

3 Choose words from the boxes to complete the text.

each other her his its themselves they your

My brother and 1 girlfriend have known 2 for about five years, but 3 've only been going out together for six months.

he her him she their they we

Before that, he didn't like 4 and 5 didn't like him, but later 6 became good friends, and started going out together.

her hers his its it's our their they they're

7 both have small flats. His flat is in the centre, and 8 very comfortable. 9 is a long way out, and it's not so nice. So they spend most of 10 free time at 11 place.

he her hers herself him himself its it's she's

He works in a garage, and 12 a teacher, but she doesn't let 13 touch 14 car – she looks after it 15

each other I my they them their themselves they're

I like 16 both very much, and I think 17 good for 18, so 19 hope 20 will stay together.