



A1 Pronouns Explanations

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Subject and Object Pronouns

We use a pronoun when we don't want to repeat a noun or a noun phrase.

The English subject pronouns are: I, you, he, she, it, we, they. (Of course, we use 'you' when we're talking to one person and also when we're talking to more than one person.)

We use subject pronouns (I, you, he, she, it, we they) when the pronoun is the subject of a verb.

- I like London.
- You have eaten the chocolate.
- He plays football.
- She hates mushrooms.
- It was cold.
- We are French.
- They are going home.

In English, the object pronouns are: me, you, him, her, it, us, them. Notice that 'it' and 'you' are the same when they're subject pronouns or object pronouns.

We use the object pronouns in most situations when the pronoun is not the subject of a verb.

- John knows me.
- Amanda kissed you.
- The dog licked him.
- David hugged her.
- The teacher dropped it.
- The children love us.
- Luke helped them.



Possessives Determiners / Adjectives

The possessive determiners are: my, your, his, her, its, our, their. These are sometimes called possessive adjectives. These are used to talk about the owner of something.

- That car belongs to me. It is my car.
- That phone belongs to him. It is his phone.

These possessive determiners (my, your, his, her, its, our, their) are always used with a noun. They can't be used alone.

- That is my coat. (NOT: That is my.)
- John is your brother. (NOT: John is your.)



Possessive Pronouns

The English possessive pronouns are: mine, yours, his, hers, ours, theirs. Notice that 'his' is the same as the possessive determiner. We don't usually use 'its' as a pronoun.

Possessive pronouns (mine, yours, his, hers, ours, theirs) must be used without a noun.

- It's my book. It's mine.
- That's your car. It's yours.
- Those are his shoes. They're his.
- It's her umbrella. It's hers.
- Please open our gift first. Please open ours.
- The students took their books. The students took theirs.

'Whose' can be used to ask who the owner of something is, with or without a noun.

- Whose coat is this?
- Whose is this?



You = People in General

We can also use the word 'you' to mean 'people in general'. This is very common.

- You can cross the river by boat (= people in general can cross the river by boat).
- You can get coffee at the station (= everyone can get coffee at the station).
- You can't drink alcohol until you're eighteen here (= no-one is allowed to drink before age eighteen).
- You can't smoke on a train (= no-one is allowed to smoke on a train).



There is and There are

If we want to say that something exists or doesn't exist somewhere or at some time, we often use 'there + be'. It's often used to talk about something for the first time in a conversation.

- There's a cup on the table.
- There's a restaurant next to the station.
- There isn't any money in the house.
- There aren't any banks in this street.
- Is there a supermarket near here?
- Are there any potatoes in the cupboard?

Normally we use there is / was + a singular or uncountable noun.

- There is a boy in the street.
- There is water on the bathroom floor.

And we use there are / were + a plural noun.

- There are boys in the street.
- There are apples on the table.

However, in informal spoken language, you will hear people say 'there's + plural noun'.



'It' as Dummy Subject

In English, we always need to have a subject for the verb. We sometimes use 'it' when there is no other subject.

We use 'it' with 'be' + adj + to + infinitive.

- It's nice to be here.
- It's lovely to have time to relax.

We use 'it' with times / dates and days.

- It's two o'clock.
- It's Wednesday.
- It's the 22nd.
- It's Christmas Day.

We use 'it' for weather and atmosphere.

- It's cold.
- It's raining.
- It's very warm today.
- It's getting dark.
- It's too bright in here.

We use 'it' for distances.

- It's three miles to Lucy's house.



We use 'it' with people on the telephone or with people that we can't see.

- Hello! It's me!
- It's the postman at the door.

Remember – we can't use 'is' alone in these sentences in English.

NOT: ~~is nice to be here.~~

NOT: ~~is Wednesday.~~

NOT: ~~is me.~~