



**Indefinite pronouns** are used to refer to nouns without saying who or what they are. Pronouns ending with **-body, -thing, -one** such as *somebody, anybody, nobody, everybody, something, anything, nothing, someone, anyone, none* and *no one* are some of the indefinite pronouns. Other examples are *all, a few, one, many*, etc.

**Examples:**

*All* is fair in love and war.

*Something* was strange about the place.

Two people died while *many* got injured in the accident.

**Note:** Words such as *many, all, a few* and *several* act as indefinite pronouns if they refer to nouns in a sentence, and as quantifiers if they appear immediately before a noun in a sentence.

**Examples:**

This book had fifty pages, but *a few* are missing. (*A few* acts as an indefinite pronoun.)

I bought *a few* chocolates from her. (*A few* acts as a quantifier.)

Ans

3. Underline the pronouns in the following sentences. Write *P* for personal, *PO* for possessive and *I* for indefinite pronouns. One has been done for you.

(a) She went to Mussoorie with a cousin of hers. (*P, PO*)

(b) Do they have anything better? (*P, I*)

(c) You must keep these certificates of yours safely. (*P, PO*)

(d) I ate my sweets, but Parul is saving hers. (*P, PO*)

(e) This monastery is very old. Only a few like it exist today. (*I, P*)

(f) The ball we were playing with was theirs, not ours. (*P, PO, PO*)

(g) Everybody agreed with them and signed the letter. (*I, P*)

(h) They are going to visit a friend of theirs, but one of them will stay at home to help me with my homework. (*P, PO, I, P, P*)

**Read the sentences given below.**

She is going to buy *herself* a new mobile phone.

The children introduced *themselves* to each other.

You should behave *yourself* in front of your teachers.



**Note:** When a reflexive pronoun is used to emphasise a noun other than the subject, it is placed immediately after the noun. For example, *Sumit had dinner with the President himself.* (not, *Sumit himself ...*)

4. Write *R* for reflexive pronouns and *E* for emphatic pronouns in the following sentences.

- (a) She enjoyed herself to the fullest in the village. R
- (b) They themselves went to the bank to deposit the money. E
- (c) The monkey looked at itself in the mirror. R
- (d) I was quite happy as I had repaired the car by myself. R
- (e) We ourselves saw the thief entering the bank. E
- (f) The players started quarrelling among themselves. R
- (g) Vansh himself is not bothered about his admission. E

**Now, look at the following sentences.**

*This* is the best pancake I've ever had!

*Those* are my favourite dresses.

*That* is a hummingbird, and *these* are parakeets.

In the sentences above, the words in red are used as pronouns. *This* points to *the pancake*, *those* points to *the dresses*, *that* points to *the hummingbird* and *these* points to *the parakeets*. Such pronouns are called **demonstrative pronouns**.

Pronouns that point to a particular noun in a sentence are called **demonstrative pronouns**. *This*, *that*, *these* and *those* are demonstrative pronouns.

**Examples:**

*That* is the watch my father used to wear.

*These* are the notebooks he has been looking for.

*This* is the mother and *those* are her children.

**Read the following sentences.**

He lost the camera *that* we bought yesterday.

The boy *whom* you met is my cousin.

All the people *who* were invited attended the function.

**Note:** When possessive, demonstrative, interrogative and distributive pronouns are immediately followed by a noun, they act as possessive, demonstrative, interrogative and distributive adjectives, respectively.

**Examples:**

*These pens are hers.* (*These* – demonstrative adjective, *hers* – possessive pronoun)

*These are her pens.* (*These* – demonstrative pronoun, *her* – possessive adjective)

*Whose is this?* (Interrogative pronoun)

*Whose mug is this?* (Interrogative adjective)

*Neither* took care of the ailing father. (Distributive pronoun)

*Neither son* took care of the ailing father. (Distributive adjective)

5. Select the correct pronouns to complete the following sentences.

(a) The jacket with blue buttons is mine (*mine/my*).

(b) One (*one/someone*) must never give up on one's dreams.

(c) Either (*either/who*) of the boys will have to cook by himself (*themselves/himself*).

(d) She (*he/she*) could not perform very well as her mike wasn't working properly.

(e) These (*this/these*) are the most delicious cookies I've ever had! Did you prepare them yourself (*yourself/themselves*)?

(f) All (*theirs/all*) is well that (*who/that*) ends well.

(g) What (*whom/what*) is the name of the girl who (*who/which*) is planting roses in the garden?

6. Complete the following sentences using pronouns given in the box. You can repeat some pronouns. State their types in brackets: *P* for personal, *RF* for reflexive, *E* for emphatic, *PO* for possessive, *R* for relative, *IN* for interrogative and *I* for indefinite pronouns.

I	you	anyone	me	who
himself	mine	them	yourself	we

(a) who (*IN*) is the composer of this melody?

(b) Does you (*P*) want a cup of tea or coffee?



- (c) Prashant cares only for himself (R), never for others.
- (d) We (P) were late, but they waited for us.
- (e) You (P) yourself (E) know better than anybody else.
- (f) The lady who (R) introduced Ekta to Mr Mehta is a friend of mine (PO).
- (g) I (P) helped them (P) in their project work, but they did not even thank me (P).

7. Complete the following sentences with appropriate pronouns of the types mentioned in brackets.

- (a) The prisoners themselves (emphatic) admitted their crime in the courtroom.
- (b) Who (interrogative) plucked the roses from the garden?
- (c) Something (indefinite) must be done to make the society cleaner and greener.
- (d) These (demonstrative) are the jewels the countess was looking for.
- (e) Ranveer blamed himself (reflexive) for the accident.
- (f) Raghav wanted to borrow a scooter for tomorrow. I promised to lend him theirs (possessive).
- (g) The guests were unhappy about the entire arrangement. They (personal) started complaining about it (personal) to the staff members ourselves (relative) were present there.

8. Identify the errors and rewrite the following sentences correctly. One has been for you.

- (a) Whom has sent this parcel to he?  
Who has sent this parcel to him?
- (b) They are always fighting amongst herself.  
themselves.
- (c) My room is more colourful than your.  
yours.
- (d) This is the actor which inaugurated the new mall.
- (e) Jay ~~themselves~~ told hers that he was going to Bengaluru.  
who
- (f) ~~Those~~ is Seema's stall and ~~this~~ are handmade chocolates.  
himself has
- (g) Anybody ~~was~~ ready for the picnic ~~who~~ was planned by a cousin of ~~my~~.  
is these which mine