

**PERSONAL PRONOUNS**  
(pages 566–567)

- ▶ A **pronoun** is a word that takes the place of one or more nouns.
- ▶ The most commonly used pronouns are **personal pronouns**.

**EXERCISE 1 Underline the personal pronouns in each sentence.**

**EXAMPLE** Our dog thinks he is a person.

1. Wilma Rudolph chose track as her sport and became a champion.
2. Architects and engineers use mathematics in their work.
3. "We should practice our cheers," Garry told his classmates.
4. Did either you or Derek read *The Hound of the Baskervilles*?
5. "The jacket with a rip in its pocket is mine," I explained.
6. The idea of using *Facts on File* for help with reports was ours.
7. Kurt forgot where he parked his car.
8. Are the concert tickets yours or hers?
9. I lost your pen and pencil but will replace them with mine.
10. Betsy says she will save seats for you and me.

**EXERCISE 2 On the blank line, write a personal pronoun that fits the meaning of each sentence.**

**EXAMPLE** This book is mine, but that one is \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ yours

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|---|-----------|
| 1. Have you sent _____ a birthday card?                     | 1. _____  |
| 2. Are we going to ride in their car or _____?              | 2. _____  |
| 3. The driver put _____ license in the glove compartment.   | 3. _____  |
| 4. Have _____ seen this movie before?                       | 4. _____  |
| 5. They presented _____ case before the committee.          | 5. _____  |
| 6. He took the umbrella with _____ to the market.           | 6. _____  |
| 7. Will _____ fix your own dinner this evening?             | 7. _____  |
| 8. _____ is the box with the red ribbon on top.             | 8. _____  |
| 9. Our coats are in the closet, but _____ are in the hall.  | 9. _____  |
| 10. _____ are going to the basketball game on Friday night. | 10. _____ |

# What Is a Pronoun?

A **pronoun** is a word that is used in place of a noun or another pronoun. The noun or pronoun that a pronoun stands for is called the **antecedent** of the pronoun. The antecedent may be made up of two or more nouns. Sometimes a pronoun refers to a noun in a preceding sentence.

*Kathryn* is writing *her* autobiography.  
*Harry* and *Beth* are redecorating *their* home.  
We have changed *our* minds.

## Identifying Pronouns and Antecedents

Underline the pronoun(s) in each sentence. Write the antecedent(s) of each pronoun in the blank.

1. The Mayor reviewed the budget and asked questions about it. She then asked the Town Council to approve it. \_\_\_\_\_
2. The discussion lasted for hours; it ended with an agreement. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Gina said, "My sister and I sell the sun catchers we make." \_\_\_\_\_
4. Champollion used his knowledge of Greek and Coptic to decipher the hieroglyphs of the Rosetta Stone. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Billie Holiday was a jazz singer; she was admired for the unique quality of her voice. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Susan, a junior in high school, has begun to think about her career goals. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Because it is understood by people of all nations, music is considered a universal language. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Timbuktu was once a thriving commercial city; its location near the Sahara and the Niger River made it a "meeting point of camel and canoe." \_\_\_\_\_
9. Willa Cather's novel *Death Comes for the Archbishop* is her best-known work; it describes the struggles of missionaries in New Mexico. \_\_\_\_\_
10. Malcolm and his friends do their homework in the library. \_\_\_\_\_
11. Many Europeans use bicycles as a means of transportation to and from their work. \_\_\_\_\_
12. A turban is a headdress of Moslem origin; it is used to provide protection against the sun in the hot countries of the Middle East and the Orient. \_\_\_\_\_
13. The Picts were an ancient people of Great Britain; they were called Picts because they painted their skin. \_\_\_\_\_
14. Ancient Ethiopian soldiers wore horses' skulls on their heads as helmets. \_\_\_\_\_
15. Using its hind legs as oars, a water boatman crosses the pond. \_\_\_\_\_

**Personal Pronouns****More Practice****A. Finding Pronouns and Antecedents**

Underline each personal or possessive pronoun once and its antecedent twice.

**EXAMPLE** The player tipped his cap while walking toward the dugout.

1. The ref asked the players to watch as he tossed the coin.
2. As soon as the game began, the fans began the chant they have made famous.
3. The vendor sent a snack down the row, and then he waited for the money.
4. When the wave reached her section, Lorna stood up and raised her arms.
5. The players listened to their coach when time was called.
6. The coach explained the play and emphasized its importance by raising his voice.
7. When the cheerleaders made a human pyramid, the crowd shouted its approval.
8. The head cheerleader received applause when she did a series of cartwheels.
9. As the fans made their way out of the stadium, they celebrated the win.
10. Football deserves its reputation as one of America's favorite sports.

**B. Using Pronouns**

Complete each sentence with an appropriate personal pronoun. Write it on the line.

**EXAMPLE** Maura knows what \_\_\_\_\_ *she* \_\_\_\_\_ will order for lunch.

1. The principal makes \_\_\_\_\_ announcements over the public address system every day during homeroom.
2. All bus riders should pick up \_\_\_\_\_ passes at the office by 3:00 P.M.
3. When the clouds moved in, the day lost \_\_\_\_\_ appeal for me.
4. When we go for an all-day hike, we always take along \_\_\_\_\_ lunches.
5. When my aunt greets me, she always gives \_\_\_\_\_ a big hug.
6. I can't believe I forgot \_\_\_\_\_ homework today!
7. If you want to compete in this show, you and \_\_\_\_\_ dog should get into line.
8. If \_\_\_\_\_ memory serves me correctly, you prefer chocolate cake.
9. When band practice runs late, Sharon's mother usually drives \_\_\_\_\_ home.
10. I admire ants because \_\_\_\_\_ are so industrious.

## Indefinite Pronouns

An *indefinite pronoun* refers to a person, place, idea, or thing that may or may not be specifically named. Some common indefinite pronouns are *all, any, anybody, both, each, everyone, everything, few, many, more, neither, nobody, none, no one, one, other, several, some, and somebody*.

**EXAMPLE** A **few** of the sandwiches are left if **anyone** would like **more** to eat.

**EXERCISE A** Underline the indefinite pronouns in the following sentences.

**Example 1.** After last night's game, everyone had something to say about him.

1. Much is promised to someone who is willing to risk everything.
2. Knock on their door and see if anybody is home.
3. The twins rely on themselves more than they rely on anyone else.
4. Many tried out for the play, and the drama teacher chose almost everyone.
5. Jared forgot about everything but his science fair project.
6. Several of us are meeting her for lunch in the cafeteria.
7. Doesn't anybody here besides you speak Spanish?
8. Nobody forgot to bring a backpack on the field trip.
9. All of the members of the chess club wondered who would win the tournament this year.
10. Neither of the brothers was willing to ask someone for help.

**EXERCISE B** Fill in the gaps in the following sentences with an appropriate indefinite pronoun.

**Example 1.** Please don't tell anybody about the surprise party.

11. Did \_\_\_\_\_ remember to put yeast in the bread?
12. Derek has enjoyed \_\_\_\_\_ he has read in English class.
13. \_\_\_\_\_ except Tracy brought a raincoat to school today.
14. \_\_\_\_\_ of us like romantic comedies than you might think.
15. If you get lost on the way to my house, ask \_\_\_\_\_ for directions; \_\_\_\_\_ knows where I live.