ESOL – Pronouns

This companion document covers the same learning as the interactive session, but in a different way so as to be more accessible for learners with sight impairments. Because of this, it does not follow a slide structure.

Welcome

Welcome to this session on pronouns.

By the end of this session, you will be able to:

* Know the difference between a noun and a pronoun
* Be able to use singular and plural personal pronouns

Nouns and pronouns

A **noun** is a person, place or thing. For example:

* Peter – a person
* London – place
* chair – thing

A **pronoun** is a word that can be used in place of a noun.

For example, we could write:

*Peter went to the café. Peter ordered a coffee.*

We could write this again and use the pronoun ‘he’:

*Peter went to the café. He ordered a coffee.*

In the second example, the pronoun ‘he’ has been used in place of the noun ‘Peter’. We can use the pronoun ‘he’ because it is clear who we are talking about.

Personal pronouns

A **personal pronoun** is a word that can be used in place of a noun that is a person or a thing.

There are two types of personal pronoun:

1. Personal pronouns for **people**: I, you, he, she, we, they, me, you, him, her, us, them

For example:

*Ambar and Manu went to the restaurant. They both ate pizza.*

In this example, the pronoun ‘they’ is used in place of the nouns ‘Ambar and Manu’.

2. Personal pronouns for **things**: it, they, them

For example:

*The wind blew against the chair, and it fell over.*

In this example, the pronoun ‘it’ is used in place of the noun ‘chair’.

Why we use pronouns

We use pronouns so we don’t have to repeat words. This makes our writing and speaking easier to understand.

For example:

*Lucie lit the fire because Lucie was cold.*

You could rewrite this using the pronoun ‘she’, so you don’t have to keep repeating the word ‘Lucie’:

*Lucie lit the fire because she was cold.*

Singular pronouns

We use **singular** pronouns to talk about one person or thing: I, me, you, he, she, him, her.

For example:

Antoni is waiting for his friend. He is waiting outside the shop.

In this example, the pronoun ‘he’ is used in place of ‘Antoni’.

Plural pronouns

We use **plural** pronouns to talk about more than one person or thing: we, us, you, they, them.

For example:

Millie and I are going to the park. We will be back later.

In this example, the pronoun ‘we’ is used in place of ‘Millie and I’.

Using pronouns

If you keep repeating nouns, you can replace some of them with pronouns.

For example:

I bought a cake from Mr Rush. Mr Rush put the cake in a box so I could carry it.

In this example, we could replace ‘Mr Rush’ with a pronoun in the second sentence:

In the second sentence, we can replace ‘Mr Rush’ with ‘he’:

I bought a cake from Mr Rush. **He** put the cake in a box so I could carry it.

Knowledge check

Let’s check what we’ve learned throughout the session.

Read the following sentences, and try to decide which of the pronouns listed below complete them.

Pronouns: we, us, you, they, them.

Sentence 1: I saw my aunt and uncle. ***Blank*** gave me my birthday present.

Answer: saw my aunt and uncle. ***They*** gave me my birthday present

Sentence 2: Rik and I are going to the shops. ***Blank*** will be back by 4pm.

Answer: Rik and I are going to the shops. ***We*** will be back by 4pm.

Sentence 3: Beau and I are going to the cinema. Would you like to come with ***blank***?

Answer: Beau and I are going to the cinema. Would you like to come with ***us***?

Summary

Well done. You have completed this session on pronouns.

You should now:

* Know the difference between a noun and a pronoun
* Be able to use singular and plural personal pronouns

If you have any questions about anything covered in this session, please speak to your tutor for more help.