

Unit 50: PERSONAL PRONOUNS

We can use a personal pronoun instead of a noun phrase (Unit 45) when we can already understand who or what.

1 Form

SUBJECT	OBJECT	GENITIVE		REFLEXIVE
I	me	my	mine	myself
You	you	your	yours	yourself
He	him	his	his	himself
She	her	her	hers	herself
It	it	its		itself
We	us	our	ours	ourselves
You	you	your	yours	yourselves
They	them	their	theirs	themselves

2 Subject pronouns

When the pronoun is the subject of the sentence (Unit 1) or the subject of a clause.

Mila cut all of the vegetables. Then **she** cooked burgers on the grill.

Zach said that **he** had to leave early.

Mala had done **the prep** already so **it** was easy for her.

These grills are very old. **They** don't heat evenly.

3 Reflexive pronouns

a When the noun after the verb is the same as the subject.

Mila had asked **herself** whether she was prepared to start cooking on the grill. = Mila asked Mila.

Zach cut **himself**. = Zach cut Zach.

Give **yourselves** a lunch break! (The subject is **you**.)

b To point strongly to the subject.

I made it **myself**. (Nobody made it for me.)

NOTICE: He lives by himself. = He lives alone.

4 Genitive pronouns

When we are talking about who things belong to.

- a** With a noun **I**'ve lost **my** apron.
Is that **your** cutting board?
Reed has eaten **his** lunch.
Reed and Mila are selling **their** cookbook.
- b** Without a noun This is Marcia's order. Where's **mine**?
Marcia is talking to an old customer of **hers**.
That's my table. **Yours** is over there.

NOTICE: She's cut her finger. NOT *she's cut the finger*

5 Object pronouns

When we cannot use any of the other pronouns.

Marcia had to go because Neal was waiting for **her**.

Marcia had taken **the order** before so she found **it** easy.

The customers sat with the menus in front of **them**.

Could you help **us** please?

Who's serving that table? It's **me**.

6 Special uses of pronouns

- a** it for the weather **It's** very hot. **It** was raining.
for the time **It's** half past two. **It** was very early.
for distance **It's** two kilometres to the centre.
for identifying people Who's that at the door? **It's** me.
- b** you for anyone or everyone (usually in speaking)

The buses here are so full that **you** often have to stand.
You mustn't smoke in a non-smoking area.
- c** they for a group of people who you do not know personally

They say it's going to be a good summer.

They're putting up the price of gasoline.

with a singular meaning (because we don't know if we are talking about **him** or **her**)

If anyone has finished, **they** can go.

Someone hasn't eaten **their** food.