

Learn**English** Teens

Grammar videos: Personal pronouns and possessives



Remember to watch the video first! Then read the conversation between Sophie and Hakan, a student she met in Turkey. Sophie's helping Hakan understand how to use personal pronouns and possessives.





We use personal pronouns (I, me, he, him, etc.) to replace names or nouns when it is clear what they refer to. We use possessives (my, your, her) when it is not necessary to name the person the thing belongs to.

We use personal pronouns to avoid repeating nouns.

Mum's calling. **She'**s in Turkey. How's Daisy? Give her my love.



You used **she** because it's the *subject* and **her** because it's the *object*.

Very good. Here's the list of all the personal pronouns and possessive adjectives:



| Subject pronoun | Object pronoun | Possessive adjective | Possessive pronoun |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| I | me | my | mine |
| you | you | your | yours |
| he | him | his | his |
| she | her | her | hers |
| it | it | its | - |
| we | us | our | ours |
| they | them | their | theirs |

We use pronouns to avoid repetition when it is obvious what we are talking about.

Is this **your** bike? > No, that one's **mine**. (= my bike) Those red gloves are **yours**; the blue ones are **hers**. (= her gloves)



Can I use two pronouns together?

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Yes, for example:

The man in the shop gave me them free.

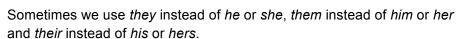


So, what do I need to be careful about?



Well, sometimes we use *me* when it might seem logical to use *l*. We also use *it* sometimes to refer to people.

I love house music > I do too / **Me** too. Who's that? > **Me**. / It's **me**. / It's Fran.



When you meet your new teacher, they will give you the books. If anyone asks where I am, tell them I'm in Istanbul this week. Someone left their gloves in the classroom.





I thought someone was singular.

Yes, you're right, but nowadays we avoid using *he* for people in general, and *he or she* is very long, so we use *they* instead, especially when we're speaking.





Can you also say:

"The English cricket team lost again. They were rubbish."?



Yes. We sometimes use they for single nouns which refer to groups of people.



What about animals?

We usually use *it/they* for animals, but when people are talking about their own pets, they use *he* or *she*.

The dog must be thirsty. Give **him** some water.

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Yes, one thinks that animals are just like people, doesn't one?

Ah, we don't use *one* to mean *everyone* very much. It sounds very old-fashioned and too formal. We use *you* to mean people in general.

You can see the sea from the top of that mountain. (you = people in general)





But the Queen uses one?

That's true. But, I haven't met the Queen and you should use you!



Watch the video on our website!

