- reflexive (basic v. emphatic use) - reciprocal pronouns (each other, one another) – possessive pronouns – relative pronouns – interrogative pronouns – demonstrative pronouns

I. REFLEXIVE PRONOUNS

- are always coreferential with a noun or another pronoun and agree with it in gender, number (i.e. end with –self or –selves) and person
- there is also an indefinite reflexive pronoun oneself
- they have two distinct uses:
  
  a) basic – e.g. They helped themselves.  
      She allowed herself a rest. 
      He is not himself today. (= He doesn’t feel well) 
      The café pays for itself.  

  b) emphatic – We couldn’t come ourselves. 
      We ourselves couldn’t come. 
      Myself, I feel quite happy about the plan. 

A) Basic use

- the basic reflexive pronoun always corefers to the subject of its own clause
- it may function as an object, a complement or a prepositional complement, but cannot itself be a subject!

Compare: He saw himself in the mirror. (reference to the subject) 
          He saw him in the mirror. (reference to some other person)

          He and his wife poured themselves a drink. 
          He and his wife poured them a drink. 

          Kathy begged Jane to look after her. (=Katy) 
          Kathy begged Jane to look after herself. (= Jane)

- the imperative clauses are understood to involve 2nd person

          e.g. Look at yourself in the mirror. 
            Help yourselves.

- in nonfinite clauses the reflexive ‘oneself’ may be used

          e.g. Voting for oneself is unethical. (also: yourself) 
            Pride in oneself was considered a deadly sin. (also: yourself)
Obligatory reflexive pronoun

1) Some verbs require the reflexive pronoun:

a) reflexive verbs – have a reflexive object

- e.g. She always prides herself on her academic background.

- absent oneself (from)
- avail oneself (of)
- demean oneself (formal)

b) semi-reflexive verbs – the reflexive pronoun may be omitted with little or no change of meaning

- e.g. Behave yourself now!
- Behave now!

- adjust (oneself) to
- hide (oneself)
- wash (oneself)
- dress (oneself)

Adjust (oneself) to your surroundings.

Identify (oneself) with the group.

Compare: Jane’s mother dresses her before 8 a.m. (=Jane)

Jane’s mother dresses (herself) before 8 a.m. (=mother)

Note:

Many verbs can have different constructions, e.g. enjoy:

- e.g. I enjoyed myself. (=I had a good time)
- I enjoyed the party. (= I took pleasure in it.)
- I enjoyed the guests. (=liked, esp. AmE)

2) Some prepositions require reflexive pronouns

a) with prepositional objects, where the preposition has a close relationship with the verb:

- e.g. Mary stood looking at herself in the mirror.
- Do look after yourselves!
- He thinks too much of himself.
- Janet took a photo of herself (=Janet) x Janet took a photo of her. (someone else)
b) with prepositional phrases following a noun which refers to a work of art, a story, etc:

  e.g. Every writer’s first novel is basically a story about himself.
  Rembrandt painted many remarkable portraits of himself.
  Do you have a recent photograph of yourself?

Optional reflexive pronoun (= it may be replaced by objective pronouns)

  a) in some spatial prepositional phrases

        e.g. She’s building a wall of Russian books about her. (herself)
  He stepped back, gently closed the door behind him (himself), and walked down the corridor. (= the reflexive expresses emphasis)

But: many prepositional phrases that are adverbials of space or time require the object pronoun:

        e.g. He looked about him.
  Have you any money on you?
  I have my wife with me.
  She pushed the cart in front of her.
  We have the whole day before us.

On the other hand, there are idiomatic phrases where we must use the reflexive:

        e.g. They were beside themselves with rage.
  I was sitting by myself.

b) after the prepositions ‘like, than, as, but (for), except (for), as for’

        e.g. For someone like me / myself, this is a big surprise.
  Except for us / ourselves, the whole village was asleep.
  According to the manager, no one works as hard as him (himself).

c) when a reflexive pronoun is coordinated with another phrase

        e.g. They have never invited Margaret and me / myself to dinner.

B) Emphatic use

  reflexive pr. in emphatic use occur in apposition and have nuclear stress
  may be used in different positions:

        e.g. I myself wouldn’t take any notice.
  I wouldn’t take any notice myself. → all these mean - speaking personally
  Myself, I wouldn’t take any notice of her.

  in other context, the meaning can be ‘X and nobody else’:

        e.g. Do you mean that you spoke to the President himself?
II. RECIPROCAL PRONOUNS

- i.e. each other (= more common in informal style) and one another (more common in formal contexts)
  e.g. Meg and Bill are very fond of each other.
  All the children trust one another.
  The party leaders promised to give each other their support.
  They each blamed the other.
  The passengers disembarked one after another.
  - they have genitive forms
  e.g. The students can borrow each other’s / one another’s books.
  - express a ‘two-way reflexive relationship’ but have a different meaning than reflexive pronouns

Compare:

Adam and Eve blamed themselves. X Adam and Eve blamed each other.
(A. blamed himself, E. blamed herself). (he blamed her, and she blamed him)

III. POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS

- differ in form – may function as determiners: my, your, his, her, its, our, their
  - or as independent items: mine, yours, his, hers, (its), ours, theirs

Compare:

These are her books. These books are hers.
That is my bicycle. That bicycle is mine.
Which are their clothes? Which clothes are theirs?
Is this his car? Is this car his?

- ‘its’ is extremely rare in independent function
- the independent possessive also occurs as prepositional complement in:
  e.g. I have been talking to a friend of yours. (= one of your friends)
       The only opera of his I know is ……..

- the only form of modification of possessive pronouns is ‘own’
  e.g. This book doesn’t belong to the library – it’s my own copy.
       Sam cooks his (own) dinner every evening. (=cooks dinner for himself)
       Do you like this cake? It’s my own recipe.

- the combination ‘your own, her own’ etc. can follow ‘of’ in:
  e.g. I would like to have a home of my own.
       Have you got a car of your own / your own car? (but not: an own car)
- there is **no difference** between **determiner** and **independent** function:
  
  e.g. That is *my own* car.  
  That car is *my own*  
  (not: *mine own*)

IV. **RELATIVE PRONOUNS**

- **introduce** relative clauses: *who* (*whom*), *whose*, *which*, *that*, (*= zero*)

  e.g. The man *who* we met at the party was Jane’s cousin.  
  I’d like to come and see the house *which / that* you have for sale.  
  I’d like to come and see the house you have for sale. (= zero)

We distinguish **two basic types of relative clauses**:

a) **restrictive** – **define** the person or thing they refer to; can contain all kinds of relative pronouns or *zero*; do not have commas

  e.g. *The man who / that* was standing on the corner was waiting for his friends.

b) **nonrestrictive** – describe but do not define the person or thing; can contain *‘who, which, whose’ but not ‘that’, or *zero*; contain commas

  e.g. Prague, *which* is the capital of the Czech Republic, is one of the most beautiful cities in Europe. (*that* is not possible)

**The pronouns**

- **who / whom** - personal gender

  e.g. The man *who* greeted me is a neighbour. (*who = subject*)
  The man *who / whom* I greeted is a neighbour. (*who / whom = object*)
  The man *to whom* I spoke is a neighbour.
  The man (*who*) I spoke to is a neighbour.

  *whom* – is largely restricted to formal style when it functions as the object of the relative clause, but (!) it must be used if a preposition follows (e.g. ‘to whom’ not ‘to who’)

- **which** – nonpersonal gender
- **whose** – usually personal, but can also be nonpersonal

  e.g. That is *the doctor whose* number I gave you.  
  That is *the hospital whose* phone number I gave you.  
  (= That is the hospital *the number of which* I gave you.)

- **that** – has no reference to gender but **cannot be preceded by a preposition** and can be used only in **restrictive relative clauses**

  e.g. The *play that* pleased me is new to London.  
  The *actor that* I admired ……
  The *play that* I told you *about* was ……… (but not: *about that* I told you)
‘that’ is especially common after: ‘all, every (thing), some(thing), any(thing), no(thing), none, little, few, much, only’ and also after superlatives:

e.g. Is this all that’s left?
   Have you got anything that belongs to me?
   It’s the best film that’s ever been made on this subject.
   All that you need is here. (not: what)

- pet animals can be regarded as ‘personal’ esp. by their owners:

e.g. Rover, who was barking, frightened the children.

- human babies can be regarded (although rarely by their parents) as nonpersonal

e.g. This is the baby which needs inoculation.

- collective nouns can be regarded personal or nonpersonal:

e.g. The committee who were responsible for this decision ……
   The committee which was responsible for this decision ……

Zero = omitting the pronouns

- we can leave out the relative pronoun, but only when it refers to the object and only in restrictive relative clauses

   e.g. The man (who) I phoned didn’t help me at all.
   The girl (who) he came with was very attractive.
   The story (that) he told me was really incredible.

   But! The man who phoned in the morning wanted to order some goods. (subject)
   The girl who was waiting for me was my sister. (subject)

Further notes:
- ‘when’ and ‘where’ can be used after nouns referring to times and places instead of ‘at which’ or ‘in which’:

   e.g. I know a wood where you can find wild strawberries.
   Can you suggest a time when it will be convenient to meet?

- sometimes the relative clause refers not just to the noun before it, but to the whole sentence before:

   compare: He showed me a photo that upset me. (=the photo was upsetting)
   He tore up my photo, which upset me. (the fact that he tore it up was upsetting)

- with determiners (e.g. all, many, few, none) we can use ‘of whom’:

   e.g. It’s a family of eight children, all of whom are studying music.
   We tested three hundred types of boot, none of which is completely waterproof.
V. INTERROGATIVE PRONOUNS

= who, whom, whose, which, what

- **who, whom, whose** – refer only to items of personal gender
- ‘whom’ can function only as the objective case
- ‘who’ can be both subjective and objective except after a preposition

  e.g. *Who* owns this house?
       *Who(m)* does this house belong to?
       *To whom* does this house belong (=formal!) / *Who* does this house belong to?
       *Whose* is this house?

- ‘**which**’ – reference can be personal or nonpersonal

  e.g. *Of these cars, which* is best?
       *Of these students, which* do you like most?

- ‘**what**’ used as a pronoun – the reference is assumed nonpersonal

  e.g. *What* is in that box?

But! *What* and *which* can also be **determiners** – in this function the noun phrase can be personal or nonpersonal, ‘*which*’ assumes a limited choice of known answers:

  e.g. *What* doctor(s) would refuse to see a patient?
       *Which* doctor(s) gave an opinion on this problem? (i.e. of those we are discussing)

  Also: *Which* is you? (a person looking at an old photo)
       Which of the three girls is the oldest? (= ‘of’ phrase indicates definite number)

Compare:

*Who* is his wife? – The novelist Felicity Smith.
*What* is his wife? – A novelist.
*Which* is his wife? – The woman nearest the door.

VI. DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUNS

- ‘**this / these**’ – suggest relative proximity to the speaker
- ‘**that / those**’ – suggest relative remoteness
- they can refer both to countable and uncountable nouns

  e.g. We shall compare *this* (picture) here with *that* (picture) over there.
       We shall compare *these* (pictures) here with *those* (pictures) over there.

- they can be used as **pro-forms** as substitutes for a noun phrase:

  e.g. This chair is more comfortable than *that* (or *that one*)
       Those apples are sweeter than *these* (or *these ones*)
       I attended to *that* patient but not *this* (one).
- they can refer to some **unspecified object(s):**

  e.g. Come and have a look at **this**.
       Have you heard **this**? (=this joke, this piece of news)
       Can I borrow **these**? (i.e. these books)

- the demonstrative pronouns can be **a subject of a ‘be-clause’:**

  e.g. **That** is my kitten.
       **These** are the children I told you about.
       **This** is Mr. Jones.
       **That**’s my stepmother. *(pointing to a photograph)*
       **This** is Sid. Is **that** Paul? *(on the telephone)*

- ‘**this v. that**’ can refer not only to **space**, also **time**

  e.g. **this morning** (refers to today)
       **that morning** (refers to a more distant morning, past or future)

- ‘**this / these**’ tend to be associated with **cataphoric reference**

  e.g. Watch carefully and I’ll show you: **this** is how it’s done.

- ‘**that / those**’ with **anaphoric reference:**

  e.g. So now you know: **that**’s how it’s done.
       And **that** was the six o’clock news.

- ‘**that**’ refers to degree or measurement in contexts such as:

  e.g. My brother is six feet tall, but yours must be even taller than **that**.

Note:
Especially in informal English ‘**this / these**’ tend to indicate the **speaker’s approval**, ‘**that / those**’ the **speaker’s disapproval**

  e.g. How can **this intelligent girl** think of marrying **that awful bore**?