

## **Grammatical purposes of english pronouns and pronoun phrases.**

*Ergasheva Zulayxo Taxir qizi*

*faculty of English in preschool and primary education 310 group*

*Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages, Samarkand, Uzbekistan.*

Annotation: A pronoun is an independent part of speech that indicates objects, signs, quantities, but does not name them, replacing nouns. Among other independent parts of speech, pronouns arose very early, which is due, firstly, to the too generalizing nature of the meanings of pronouns, and secondly, to the preservation of ancient individual features in the morphemic composition. The first works were aimed at identifying the general properties and patterns characteristic of the pronoun as an independent part of speech, the history and the system of their formation.

Keywords: general properties, patterns characteristic, replacing nouns.

Nouns are traditionally defined as “persons, places, things, and ideas.” Noun phrases are defined as phrases that consist of a noun or pronoun and any number of constituents including adjectives, determiners, prepositional phrases, verb phrases, and adjective clauses. Pronoun is a subcategory of noun. Pronouns and noun phrases headed by pronouns perform eight grammatical functions within sentences in the English language.

The eight functions of pronouns are:

noun phrase head

subject

subject complement

direct object

object complements

indirect object

prepositional complement

appositive

Because pronoun is a subcategory of noun, phrases in which a pronoun functions as the phrase head are considered noun phrases. In other words, pronoun phrase is a subcategory of noun phrase. However, most grammars refer to phrases with pronouns functioning as the phrase head as noun phrases rather than pronoun phrases.

### Noun Phrase Head

The first grammatical function that pronouns perform is the noun phrase head. A noun phrase consists of a noun including a pronoun plus any determiners, modifiers, and

complements. For example, the following italicized pronouns function as noun phrase heads:

*me* (personal pronoun)

*that* (demonstrative pronoun)

*what* (interrogative pronoun)

*someone special* (indefinite pronoun)

*anybody to call* (indefinite pronoun)

### Subjects

The second grammatical function that pronouns perform is the subject. A subject is a word, phrase, or clause that performs the action of or acts upon the verb. For example, the following italicized pronouns function as subjects:

*did you call?* (personal pronoun)

*these stink terribly!* (demonstrative pronoun)

*who stole the cookie from the cookie jar?* (interrogative pronoun)

*no one should work this weekend.* (indefinite pronoun)

*another bit the dust.* (indefinite pronoun)

### Subject Complements

The third grammatical function that pronouns perform is the subject complement. A subject complement is a word, phrase, or clause that follows a copular, or linking, verb and describes the subject of a clause. The terms predicate nominative and predicate noun are also used for pronouns that function as subject complements. For example, the following italicized pronouns function as predicate nominatives:

*this is she.* (personal pronoun)

*this is her.* (personal pronoun)

*the cookies for the sale are those.* (demonstrative pronoun)

*the thief was who?* (interrogative pronoun)

*the winner was neither.* (indefinite pronoun)

### Direct Objects

The fourth grammatical function that pronouns perform is the direct object. A direct object is a word, phrase, or clause that follows a transitive verb and answers the question

“who?” or “what?” receives the action of the verb. For example, the following italicized pronouns function as direct objects:

a dog bit you? (personal pronoun)

the mailman delivered this. (demonstrative pronoun)

my brother brought which? (interrogative pronoun)

raymond loves everybody. (indefinite pronoun)

your sister-in-law has borrowed several. (indefinite pronoun)

### Object Complements

The fifth grammatical function that pronouns perform is the object complement. Object complements are defined as nouns, pronouns, noun phrases, adjectives, and adjective phrases that directly follow and modify the direct object. For example, the following italicized pronouns function as object complements:

you painted the bathroom this?! (demonstrative pronoun)

he considered the movie what? (interrogative pronoun)

the neighbors stained their fence which? (interrogative pronoun)

the committee may elect me either. (indefinite pronoun)

you should appoint her something. (indefinite pronoun)

### Indirect Objects

The sixth grammatical function that pronouns perform is the indirect object. An indirect object is word, phrase, or clause that indicates to or for whom or what the action of a ditransitive verb is performed. For example, the following italicized pronouns function as indirect objects:

my husband bought me flowers. (personal pronoun)

a stranger sent her a box of chocolates. (personal pronoun)

you should give that some thought. (demonstrative pronoun)

she wants to give whom that ugly armchair? (interrogative pronoun)

the committee has given both some real consideration. (indefinite pronoun)

### Prepositional Complements

The seventh grammatical function that pronouns perform is the prepositional complement. A prepositional complement is a word, phrase, or clause that directly

follows a preposition and completes the meaning of the prepositional phrase. For example, the following italicized pronouns function as prepositional complements:

my husband bought flowers for me. (personal pronoun)

send a free sample to them. (personal pronoun)

the library really frowns upon that. (demonstrative pronoun)

you threw a tantrum for what? (interrogative pronoun)

i received an anonymous letter from somebody. (indefinite pronoun)

Appositives.

The eighth grammatical function that pronouns perform is the appositive. An appositive is a word, phrase, or clause that modifies or explains another noun phrase. For example, the following italicized pronouns function as appositives:

that man, him, stole my purse. (personal pronoun)

the winner is a woman, her. (personal pronoun)

a dog, that, has been digging in my garden. (demonstrative pronoun)

that fork and that spoon both are dirty. (indefinite pronoun)

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