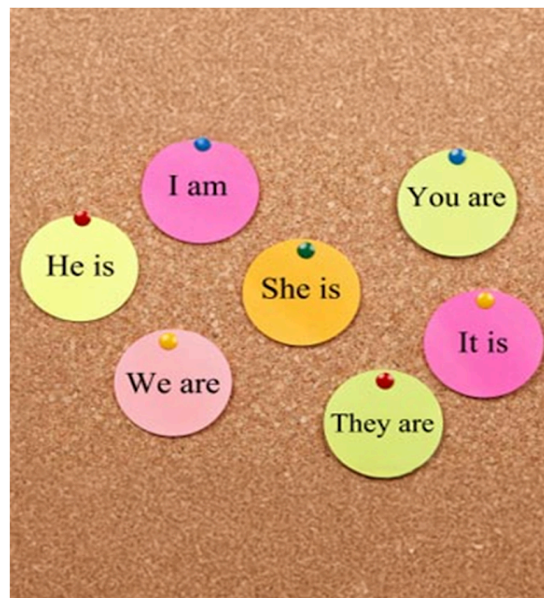


# English Grammar

## STUDY NOTES

### Pronoun II



## 6. REFLEXIVE PRONOUN:

A **reflexive pronoun** is used when the subject and the object of a sentence refer to the **same person or thing**. Reflexive pronouns end in **-self** (singular) or **-selves** (plural) and include **myself, yourself, himself, herself, itself, ourselves, yourselves, and themselves**.

### Usage of Reflexive Pronouns:

Reflexive pronouns are used in the following situations:

#### 1. When the Subject and Object Are the Same:

- The reflexive pronoun is used to show that the action is being performed by the subject **on itself**.
- **Example:** *She taught **herself** to play guitar.*  
(The subject "she" and the object "herself" are the same person.)

#### 2. For Emphasis (Intensive Pronouns):

- Reflexive pronouns can also emphasize that the subject did something alone or without help.
- **Example:** *I baked this cake **myself**.*  
(Emphasizes that "I" alone did the baking.)

#### 3. To Avoid Ambiguity:

- Reflexive pronouns clarify who or what the object refers to when it could otherwise be unclear.
- **Example:** *The manager said the employees should trust **themselves**.*  
(Shows that each employee should trust themselves, not someone else.)

### Examples of Reflexive Pronouns:

- **Myself:** I completed the project **myself**.
- **Yourself:** Did you make this meal **yourself**?
- **Himself:** He injured **himself** during the game.

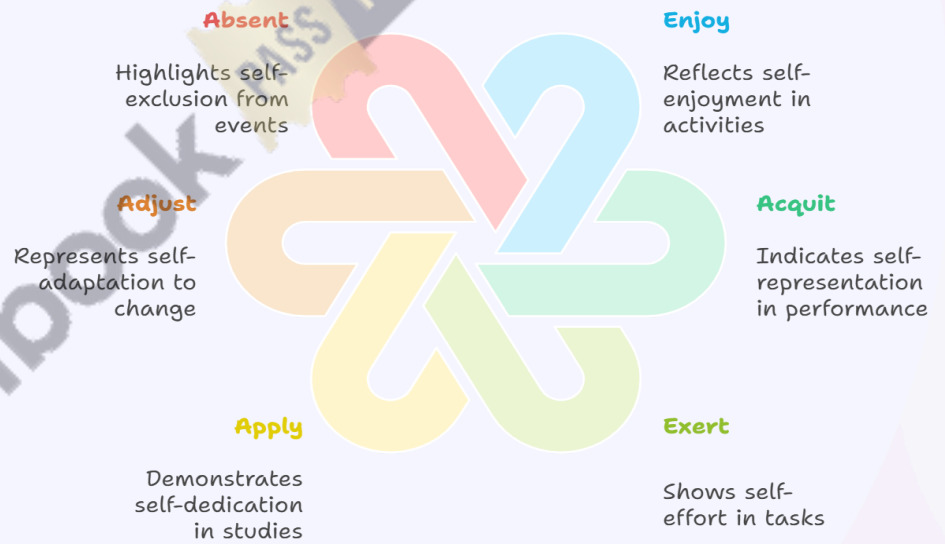
- **Herself:** She prepared the presentation **herself**.
- **Itself:** The cat cleaned **itself** after eating.
- **Ourselves:** We built the house **ourselves**.
- **Yourselves:** You all should enjoy **yourselves** at the party.
- **Themselves:** They organised the event **themselves**.

However, in such cases, we use **reflexive pronouns** with certain **verbs**.

Verb + Reflexive pronoun

Verb
<b>enjoy</b>
<b>acquit</b>
<b>exert</b>
<b>apply</b>
<b>adjust</b>
<b>absent</b>
<b>avail</b>
<b>reconcile</b>

Understanding Reflexive Pronouns with examples:



**Note:**

Reflexive **Pronouns** are never used with certain verbs like: **start, stop, keep, hide, bath, shave.**

**Example:**

He bathed **himself** in the river. ❌

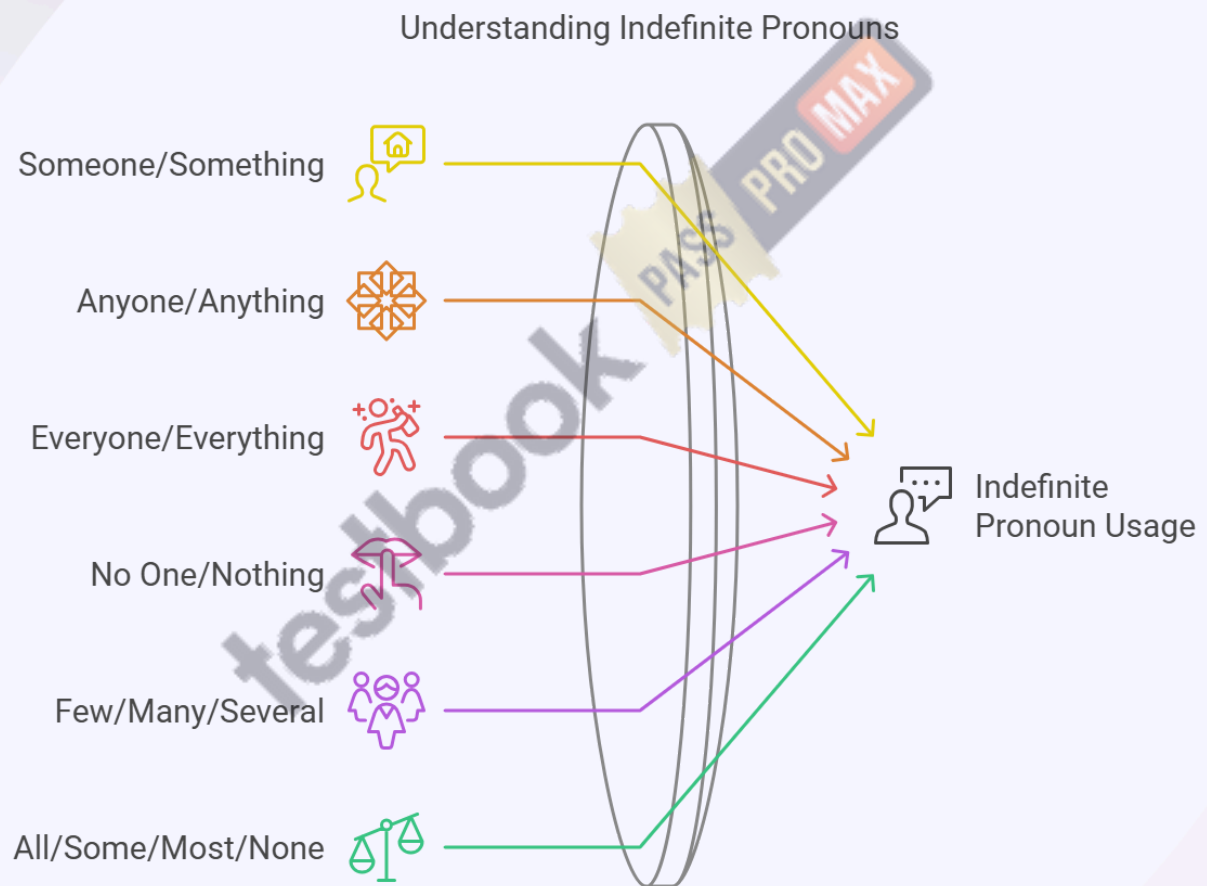
**7. INDEFINITE PRONOUN:**

An **indefinite pronoun** refers to people, places, things, or ideas in a **general, non-specific way**. It does not refer to any particular person, thing, or amount, which makes it “indefinite.” Common indefinite pronouns include **someone, anyone, everyone, nobody, few, many, all, some, and several.**

**Types of Indefinite Pronouns:**

1. **Singular Indefinite Pronouns** – Always refer to a single person or thing.
  - **Examples: someone, anyone, everyone, nobody, each, either, another**
  - **Usage: *Someone left their bag here.*** (refers to an unspecified person)
2. **Plural Indefinite Pronouns** – Always refer to more than one person or thing.

- **Examples: few, many, several, both**
  - **Usage: *Many are interested in the new book.*** (refers to an unspecified number of people)
3. **Indefinite Pronouns that Can Be Singular or Plural** – These can be singular or plural, depending on the noun they refer to.
- **Examples: all, some, any, most, none**
  - **Usage (singular): *Some of the cake was eaten.***
  - **Usage (plural): *Some of the cakes were eaten.*** (In this case, “some”



refers to multiple cakes, making it plural.)

**Common Indefinite Pronouns and Examples:**

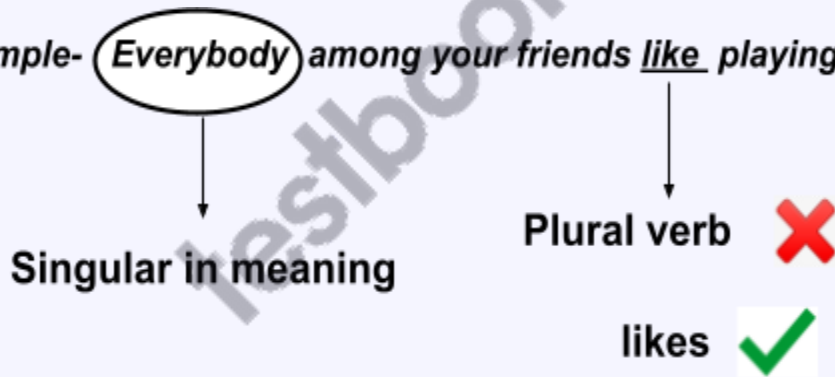
- **Someone, somebody, something**
  - **Usage:** *Someone left the door open.*  
(refers to an unknown person)
- **Anyone, anybody, anything**
  - **Usage:** *Is anyone home?*  
(refers to any person without specifying who)
- **Everyone, everybody, everything**
  - **Usage:** *Everyone enjoyed the concert.*  
(refers to all people in a general way)
- **No one, nobody, nothing**
  - **Usage:** *Nobody knows the answer.*  
(refers to an absence of any person knowing)
- **Few, many, several**
  - **Usage:** *Few understand the complexity of the topic.*  
(refers to a small, indefinite number of people)
- **All, some, most, none**
  - **Usage (singular):** *All of the information is accurate.*
  - **Usage (plural):** *All of the students are present.*

<b><i>Indefinite Pronoun classification:</i></b>		
<b><i>Singular</i></b>	<b><i>Plural</i></b>	<b><i>Singular/ Plural</i></b>
one	Many	Some
body	both	any
thing	few	none
Each/Every/Neither	A few	all

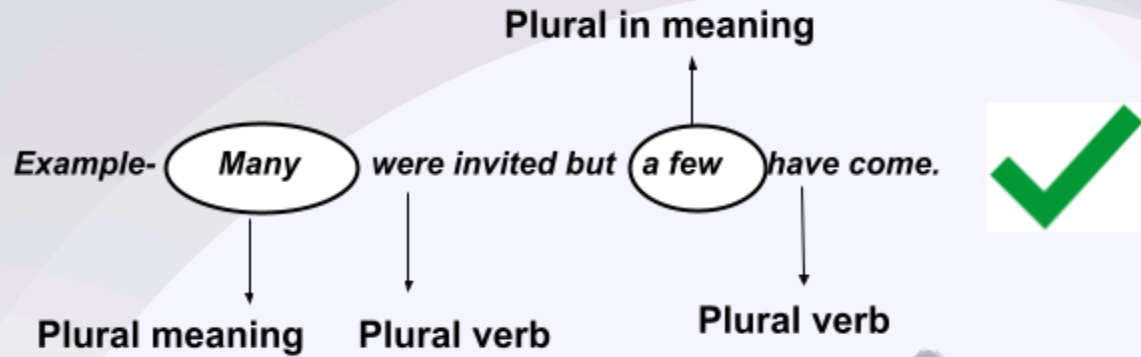
	<p><b>Exceptions:-</b></p> <p><b>Many + A/ An = Singular verb</b></p> <p><b>Example:</b> Many a student has faced this challenge.</p> <p><b>More than one = Singular verb</b></p> <p><b>Example:</b> More than one person is interested in the position.</p> <p><b>More than two = Plural verb</b></p> <p><b>Example:</b> More than two students are participating in the competition.</p>	
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**Singular: (1)**

**Example-** Everybody among your friends like playing





**Plural: (2)**



**Singular/ Plural: (3)**

**Example-**

- **Some** of the biscuits was eaten 
- **None** of the five players who have given a chance to join this team, play confidently. 

**8. Emphasizing Pronouns:**

Emphatic pronouns are similar to reflexive pronouns but are used to emphasise a noun or pronoun in the sentence.

**Examples:**

- I myself painted the wall.
- She herself solved the problem.

**Examples :**

1. The king **himself** attended the meeting.
2. I completed the whole homework assignment **myself**.

## 9. RECIPROCAL PRONOUN

A **reciprocal pronoun** is used when two or more people, groups, or things perform an action together and both receive the action equally. The two reciprocal pronouns in English are each other and one another.

Usage of Reciprocal Pronouns:

- **Each Other** – Typically used when there are two people or things involved.
  - Example: The two friends helped each other with their homework.
    - Both friends helped the other, creating a shared or reciprocal action.
- **One Another** – Generally used when there are three or more people or things involved.
  - Example: The eleven team members supported one another throughout the tournament.
    - Each member of the team gave support to the others. (three or more)
- **Possessive Pronouns:** Pronouns that indicate possession or ownership are known as possessive **pronouns**. They serve as a reminder that something or someone owns it. To avoid using the same noun twice, possessive pronouns are used in place of the noun that indicates possession. Examples: **mine, yours, his, hers, its, ours**.  
**Examples :**
  1. That red book is **mine**, not yours.
  2. The choice was entirely **hers** to make.

### Practice Quiz



These ten pronoun-related questions cover various pronoun-related themes and are based on the SSC CGL test pattern. Every question has an explanation and a solution.

#### 1. Error Detection (Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement)

Question:

Find the part of the sentence with an error.

**Each of the candidates must bring their notebooks to the class.**

- (a) Each of the students
- (b) must bring
- (c) their notebooks
- (d) to the class.

**Solution: (c) their notebooks**

**Explanation:** 'Each' needs a singular possessive *pronoun* because it is a singular *pronoun*. "Each student must bring his or her notebook to the class" is the proper wording.

## 2. Fill in the Blanks (Reflexive Pronouns)

Question:

**She looked at \_\_\_\_\_ in the mirror before leaving.**

- (a) her
- (b) herself
- (c) hers
- (d) she

**Solution: (b) herself**

**Explanation:** When the subject and the object are the same individual, reflexive *pronouns* such as "herself" are employed. "Herself" is appropriate since the language suggests that the topic (she) is also the object of the activity (seeing).

## 3. Fill in the Blanks (Possessive Pronouns)

Question:

**This is not my book; it's \_\_\_\_\_.**

- (a) his
- (b) him
- (c) he
- (d) hers

**Solution: (a) his**

**Explanation:** The possessive *pronoun* "his" in this instance indicates that the book is the property of someone (he). The right answer is "his."

#### 4. Error Detection (Relative Pronouns)

Question:

Find the part of the sentence with an error.

***The man which you met yesterday is my uncle.***

- (a) The man
- (b) which you met
- (c) yesterday
- (d) is my uncle.

**Solution:** (b) which you met

**Explanation:** Here, "man" refers to a person, hence "whom" or "who," rather than "which," is the appropriate relative *pronoun*. To put it correctly, "The man whom you met yesterday is my uncle".

#### 5. Sentence Improvement (Demonstrative Pronouns)

Question:

**I don't like these kind of shoes.**

- (a) these kinds of
- (b) this kind of
- (c) those kind of
- (d) No improvement

**Solution:** (b) this kind of

**Explanation:** While "kind" is single, "these" should be used to refer to multiple nouns. "This kind of shoes" (single reference to a category/type of shoes) is the appropriate wording.

#### 6. Error Detection (Indefinite Pronouns)

Question:

Find the part of the sentence with an error.

***Everyone are welcome to participate in the event.***

- (a) Everyone
- (b) are welcome

- (c) to participate
- (d) in the event.

**Solution: (b) are welcome**

**Explanation:** As an indeterminate *pronoun* that is considered singular, "everyone" should be followed by "is," not "are." It should read, "Everyone is welcome to participate in the event."

### 7. Fill in the Blanks (Interrogative Pronouns)

Question:

\_\_\_\_\_ of these options do you prefer?

- (a) Which
- (b) What
- (c) Whom
- (d) Who

**Solution: (a) Which**

**Explanation:** As "of these options" suggests, "Which" is used when there are few options. "Which of these options do you prefer?" is the proper sentence.

### 8. Error Detection (Reciprocal Pronouns)

Question:

Find the part of the sentence with an error.

*The two friends helped one another during the project.*

- (a) The two friends
- (b) helped
- (c) one another
- (d) during the project.

**Solution: (c) one another**

**Explanation:** While "each other" is used for two persons, "one another" is used for more than two people. This is the right sentence: "The two friends helped each other during the project."

### 9. Fill in the Blanks (Personal Pronouns)

Question:

**My brother and \_\_\_\_\_ went to the store.**

- (a) me
- (b) I
- (c) myself
- (d) mine

**Solution: (b) I**

**Explanation:** Utilizing compound subjects (such as "**My brother and I**") necessitates the use of the pronoun "**I**" rather than "**me**." "**My brother and I went to the store.**" is the proper sentence.

### **10. Error Detection (Pronoun Consistency)**

Question:

Find the part of the sentence with an error.

***If one wants to succeed, you must work hard.***

- (a) **If one**
- (b) **wants to succeed**
- (c) **you must work**
- (d) **hard.**

**Solution: (c) you must work**

**Explanation:** Since "**one**" is the subject at the beginning of the sentence, the **pronoun** must be consistent. "**One**" should be used in place of "**you**" to maintain consistency. It should read, "**If one wants to succeed, one must work hard.**"