

University of Mosul
college of Political science Headway
FIRST
STAGE
2022- 2023

Pronouns vs. nouns •

While pronouns constitute a relatively small class of words that tends not to change over time, **nouns** are a much broader class that is constantly expanding. •

Like pronouns, nouns refer to things, people, places, and concepts, but they do so with much greater specificity.

Like pronouns, nouns can function as the head of a noun phrase and as the object or subject of a verb. A complete sentence may consist of just a noun and a verb (“Jeremy spoke.”), just as it could of a pronoun and a verb (“He spoke.”). •

Unlike pronouns, nouns are fixed in form—they don't change spellings depending on their grammatical role in a sentence. For example, while the third-person masculine pronoun "he" becomes "him" when used as an object, the noun "man" doesn't change.

Example: Nouns in a sentence

Danika went up several flights of stairs to reach the fifth floor, where her office was located.

A pronoun can also function as the object in a sentence—either a direct or indirect object:

The **direct object** is something or someone that is directly acted upon by the verb.

The **indirect object** is someone or something that receives the direct object.

Examples: Pronouns as direct and indirect objects
Give me that!

Can you promise her this?

Pronouns vs. determiners

Many pronouns are closely related to determiners, being spelled similarly (or identically) and expressing related meanings. For example, possessive pronouns like “yours” are closely related to possessive determiners like “your”; and demonstrative pronouns like “that” are identical to the demonstrative determiners.

The grammatical distinction between the two is that pronouns stand on their own as the subject or object of a verb, whereas determiners are only used to modify nouns, not acting as subjects or objects in their own right.

• Use the article *a* or *an* to indicate one in number (as opposed to more than one).
*I own **a** cat and two dogs.*

- Use the article *a* before a consonant sound, and use *an* before a vowel sound.
***a** boy, **an** apple*

◇ Sometimes an adjective comes between the article and noun:
***an** unhappy boy, **a** red apple*

Personal pronouns (first-, second-, and third-person)

Personal pronouns are words like “he” that refer to yourself, the person you’re addressing, or other people and things. They usually refer to an antecedent but may occur without one when the reference is self-evident (e.g., “I” always refers to the person saying or writing it).

Personal pronouns can change their form based on:

- Person (first-, second-, or third-person)
- Number (singular or plural)
- Gender (masculine, feminine, neuter, or epicene)
- Case (subject, object, possessive, or reflexive/intensive)