

Pronouns Explanations

It and there

It generally refers to something already mentioned. **There is** used with **be** to say that something exists.

There is a good film on tonight. It stars Kim Basinger.

It is also used in some phrases which do not have a grammatical subject.

It's raining again. It's half past six.

It doesn't matter. It's time to go.

It and adjectives

It is also used in the pattern **it** + adjective + infinitive/-ing.

It's good to see you. It was nice meeting you.

In informal speech, *it* and the verb *be* are often left out.

Good to see you. Nice meeting you.

One

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One can be used as a pronoun, and has a plural *ones*.

*I don't like **this one**. I only like **green ones**.*

- The phrase **one another** refers to two subjects.

*Martin and David can't stand **one another**.*

This means that Martin can't stand David, and David can't stand Martin.

- In normal conversation we use **you** to refer to **anybody**.

*As **you** get older **you** tend to forget things.*

But in formal speech and writing we can use **one** with this meaning. This is considered over-formal by many speakers.

*What does **one** wear to a dinner of this kind?*

It's not pleasant to hear oneself described by one's employees.

*Someone, everyone,
anyone, somewhere,*

- *-body* can be used instead of *-one* without a change in meaning.
- Words beginning *some* or *any* follow the usual patterns for these words, with *any* words normally used in questions and after negatives.

There's something under the desk. Can you see anything?

But we can use *some* in a question if it is an offer or request.

Are you looking for somewhere to stay?

Could someone help me, please?

And we use *any* in positive statements where we mean *it doesn't matter which* or *there is no limit to the possibilities*.

Please sit anywhere you like.

Anyone who's tall will do.

What as a pronoun *What* can be used as a pronoun meaning *the thing(s) that*.

What we need is a hammer.

Whatever, whoever, • These words are used to add emphasis to the question word.

wherever, whenever, *What you are doing? -> Whatever are you doing?* (shows more surprise)

why ever, however • We also use these words to mean *any at all*.

Whatever you say is wrong! (Anything at all you say ...)

Reflexive pronouns • Reflexive pronouns can be used for emphasis.

Why don't you do it yourself?

I paid for the tickets myself.

• They are also used for some actions that we do to ourselves.

Sue cut herself. I have hurt myself. Did you enjoy yourself?

But other verbs are not normally used with a reflexive pronoun, even though they are in other languages. Examples include: *change* (clothes), *complain, decide, dress, feel, meet, relax, remember, rest, sit down, stand up, wake up, wash, wonder, worry*

Possessives: parts of the body When we talk about parts of the body we often use a preposition + **the** rather than a preposition + a possessive adjective.

*Jack gave Bill a punch **on the nose**. I grabbed him by **the arm**.*

*Jack punched Bill **on the nose**. I looked him **in the eyes**.*

Key points 1 In some cases, *it* does not refer to another noun. Instead, it stands as a subject because the phrase does not have a real subject.

It's late. It's a nice day. It's five o'clock.

2 It is possible to use *some* and words made from it in questions. This is the case with offers and requests.

Are you looking for someone?

3 It is possible to use *any* and words made from it in positive statements. This is the case when we mean *no limit*.

Call me any time you like.

4 Some verbs (*cut, enjoy, hurt*) require a reflexive (*myself*, etc.) if there is no other object.

I enjoyed the party. Martha cut her finger.

I enjoyed myself. Martha cut herself.