

## The Harold Syntax Guide to Pronouns

### Pre-Test

**Directions:** In the blank space, write a "T" if the statement is true and an "F" if the statement is false.

- \_\_\_ 1. Pronouns take the place of nouns.
- \_\_\_ 2. Pronouns help writers and speakers avoid boring repetition.
- \_\_\_ 3. Pronouns seldom name persons, places, or things.
- \_\_\_ 4. Personal pronouns are called personal because they name men, women, and children who are personable.
- \_\_\_ 5. Personal pronouns are always stated in the singular formation.
- \_\_\_ 6. Pronouns have their own cases, completely distinct from noun cases.
- \_\_\_ 7. The pronoun "you" can be found in various cases, and can be either singular or plural.
- \_\_\_ 8. The pronouns, "I," "she," and "he" are only found in the nominative case.
- \_\_\_ 9. "Mine" is a vocative case personal pronoun.
- \_\_\_ 10. When a pronoun is a person spoken to in the sentence, it is in the vocative case.
- \_\_\_ 11. Relative pronouns relate to verbs and adverbs.
- \_\_\_ 12. Relative pronouns always agree with their antecedents in number but never in gender.
- \_\_\_ 13. Interrogative pronouns ask questions.
- \_\_\_ 14. Three examples of interrogative pronouns are "that," "who," and "which."
- \_\_\_ 15. Personal pronouns are the most commonly used pronouns.

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### A Better Line

❖ **Prof. Syntax reminder: A pronoun is a word that takes the place of a noun and is used to prevent boring repetition.**

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**Directions:** Read Bob's "lines." Then, by using pronouns, rewrite it to sound better. Then change Betty's responses accordingly, also using pronouns. Use the space at the blank part of this page, at the bottom. You may use the back of this page if necessary.

(Telephone rings)

Betty (answers phone): Hello.

Bob: This is Bob, Betty. How's Betty doing?

Betty: Oh, hi, Bob. Fine.

Bob. Bob wants to ask Betty a question. Bob wants to know if Betty will go to the dance with Bob. Bob likes to dance, especially if Bob can dance with Betty. What does Betty say to Bob?

Betty: Whaaa....?

Bob (passionately): Oh, Betty! Bob can't hide Bob's strong feelings for Betty. Bob thinks Bob is in love with Betty!

Betty: Whaaa...?

**The Harold Syntax Guide to Pronouns****Personal Pronouns**

❖ **Prof. Syntax reminder: Personal pronouns generally take the place of nouns that name persons.**

**Directions:** Put an appropriate personal pronoun in each blank space.

One of the most enjoyable things \_\_\_\_\_ enjoy doing is playing football with \_\_\_\_\_ friends on crisp, fall afternoons. At first, \_\_\_\_\_ head over to the park and toss around the football to warm up. Then \_\_\_\_\_ choose up sides and begin to play.

\_\_\_\_\_ usually play in the backfield because \_\_\_\_\_ am fast and have good hands. \_\_\_\_\_ best friend, Cal Bridges, always plays quarterback. \_\_\_\_\_ brother, Mike, plays center.

\_\_\_\_\_ favorite play is going long for the bomb. \_\_\_\_\_ usually run down the sidelines. About 40 to 60 yards down the field, \_\_\_\_\_ glance back to see where Mike has passed the ball. After all these years, \_\_\_\_\_ have our timing down almost perfectly. If nobody rushes \_\_\_\_\_, Mike throws a perfect spiral to \_\_\_\_\_. All \_\_\_\_\_ have to do is stretch out \_\_\_\_\_ arms and haul it in.

After an hour or so, \_\_\_\_\_ head back to one of the guy's homes, usually Manuel's place because \_\_\_\_\_ has lots of space at \_\_\_\_\_ house. \_\_\_\_\_ mother also makes great snacks. \_\_\_\_\_ often has piping hot pizza in \_\_\_\_\_ oven waiting for us when \_\_\_\_\_ get there. In a few minutes, \_\_\_\_\_ takes it out and cuts pieces for \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ watch some TV, usually a college game, then \_\_\_\_\_ may go the movies if something good is showing, or \_\_\_\_\_ will rent a movie.

**The Harold Syntax Guide to Pronouns****Pronoun Cases**

❖ Prof. Syntax reminder: Pronouns have the same cases as nouns. Nominative case pronouns tell whom or what the sentence is about. Objective case pronouns have something done to them and receive the action of the verb. Possessive case pronouns show ownership. The vocative case pronoun, you, is the person being addressed.

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**Directions:** Underline the correct pronoun after you have determined the proper case.

1. **She/Her** carried **he/him** to the car.
2. Bob awarded **we/us** first place in the essay contest.
3. **We/Us** decided to wait for Robert.
4. **Them/They** created a new musical hit.
5. Betty and **I/me** made the best test scores.
6. **I/me** posted **they/them** on the bulletin board.
7. **She/Her** said it was **your/you** computer.
8. "**You/Your** there!" cried the referee. "Stop **you/your** pushing!"
9. **They/Them** carefully watched **we/us** enter the store.
10. **Our/Them** parents will take **you/your** to Europe.
11. **Us/We** would be wise to lower our energy consumption.
12. **You/Your** classmates have learned **their/them** lessons well.
13. **Me/I** am getting used to using good grammar.

## The Harold Syntax Guide to Pronouns

### Relative and Interrogative Pronouns

❖ **Prof. Syntax reminder: Relative pronouns relate to some other pronoun or noun in a sentence. They must agree with that pronoun or noun in both gender and number. Interrogative pronouns ask questions.**

Directions: Write an appropriate relative or interrogative pronoun in the blank space. Write above the pronoun whether it is relative or interrogative.

1. That elephant \_\_\_\_\_ attacked him was angry.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ basketball is this?
3. The entertainer \_\_\_\_\_ had worked for 40 years was given an award.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ ran the race at Newark?
5. Ice cream, \_\_\_\_\_ is one our favorite desserts, has 23 toppings at this parlor.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ pizza comes with thick crust?
7. The student \_\_\_\_\_ creates the biggest ruckus will get after-school detention.
8. The actor \_\_\_\_\_ starred in that movie had to gain 25 pounds for the role.
9. A group of countries \_\_\_\_\_ formed an alliance discussed what to do.
10. The dog \_\_\_\_\_ barks the loudest will have to wear a muzzle at night.
11. The fans \_\_\_\_\_ started a club were invited to the rock star's party.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ will set the tables?
13. \_\_\_\_\_ is supposed to bring the drinks?
14. \_\_\_\_\_ did you say should put up the decorations?
15. The president asked the staff members \_\_\_\_\_ were reliable.

**The Harold Syntax Guide to Pronouns****Post-Test, Page 1**Part I

**Directions:** In the blank space, write a "T" if the statement is true and an "F" if the statement is false.

- \_\_\_ 1. Pronouns take the place of nouns, verbs, and adjectives.
- \_\_\_ 2. Relative pronouns relate back to a noun or another pronoun.
- \_\_\_ 3. "She," "whomever," and "which" are all examples of personal pronouns.
- \_\_\_ 4. "Mine," "yours," and "theirs" are examples of possessive case personal pronouns.
- \_\_\_ 5. "You" is the only personal pronoun used in the vocative case.

Part II

**Directions:** Write an appropriate relative or interrogative pronoun in the blank space. Write above the pronoun whether it is relative or interrogative.

1. The student \_\_\_\_\_ gave him the apple was trying to curry favor.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ test paper is this?
3. The statue \_\_\_\_\_ stood in the foyer fell down.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ car has eight stereo speakers?
5. A collection of coins \_\_\_\_\_ is valuable is missing from the case.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ ran all the laps.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ is supposed to bring the chips and soda?
8. The CEO appointed underlings \_\_\_\_\_ could be trusted.
9. The police knew the criminal \_\_\_\_\_ was guilty of the crime.
10. Raoul declared that the person \_\_\_\_\_ volunteered would receive a medal for bravery.

**The Harold Syntax Guide to Pronouns****Post-Test, Page 2**Part III

**Directions:** Cross out the incorrect pronouns in the sentences below. Next to the sentence, in the blank space, write the correct pronoun's case.

1. His grandmother really loved **him/he**. \_\_\_\_\_
2. **She/Her** should have the keys. \_\_\_\_\_
3. **You/Him** can improve test scores by studying. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Tashonda said **thems/her** kitten was mewling all day..\_\_\_\_\_
5. The fire fighter gave **his/their** best while battling the blaze. \_\_\_\_\_

Part IV

**Directions:** Rewrite each sentence, correcting the error in it. If the sentence is correct, write "correct" in the space below the sentence.

1. Whomever said that grammar was boring never saw the Harold Syntax videos.
2. If one orders the software, you should be certain it will work on your operating system.
3. Whose keys were given to the custodian?
4. The man that started the company was considered an exemplary businessman.
5. I knew a girl who name was Sally.

## The Harold Syntax Guide to Pronouns

### Discussion Questions

#### Part I: What Pronouns Are and What They Do

1. What part of speech do pronouns take the place of in sentences?
2. Why do we use pronouns?
3. What grammatical jobs do pronouns perform?
4. What do pronouns name?

#### Part II: Personal Pronouns

1. What is a personal pronoun?
2. What is pronoun "number?"
3. What are the singular personal pronouns?
4. What are the plural personal pronouns?
5. Use a singular and plural personal pronoun in sentences.

#### Part III: Pronoun Cases

1. Name the four cases in which pronouns may be found.
2. Give an example of a sentence with a nominative case personal pronoun.
3. Give an example of a sentence with a objective case personal pronoun.
4. Give an example of a sentence with a possessive case personal pronoun.
5. Give an example of a sentence with a vocative case personal pronoun.
6. What pronoun is both nominative and objective, and both singular and plural?

#### Part IV: Relative and Interrogative Pronouns

1. Define relative pronouns.
2. Define interrogative pronouns.
3. Name three relative pronouns and use them in sentences.
4. Name three interrogative pronouns and use them in sentences.