

Pronouns

It's not fair that **you** keep copying **my** homework. Why don't **you** do **it** yourself?

I just change **yours** a bit, and Mrs Lo has never caught **me** cheating.



Grammar in Context

Theme: Study

Words by Theme



Read the following phone conversation and answer the questions.

The Myth of Tutorial Classes

Olivia: Harry, I'm so tired. I've just returned home from the tutorial centre¹.

Harry: Why don't you stop going to tutorial classes? Your grades are already excellent.

Olivia: I can get extra learning materials from my tutor, Phoebus Lam. ① Compared to the materials from our school, his are more useful. ② They're more exam-oriented.

Harry: Well, I like making notes by myself. I can remember things better by doing so.

Olivia: Unfortunately, I don't have time for that.

Harry: This is because you spend two hours travelling to and from the tutorial centre every day.

Olivia: Maybe, but I can't concentrate³ when I revise at home. My baby brother keeps distracting⁴ me. ③ I need to hold and rock him whenever he cries or screams. However, when I'm at the tutorial centre and see that everyone studies hard, I can focus more easily.

Harry: Why don't you go to Tai Po Public Library? Its study room⁵ is well-equipped. ④ Students there behave themselves and study quietly. More importantly, it's free, unlike the expensive tutorial classes.

Olivia: It's true. Sometimes I feel guilty about burdening⁶ my parents with tuition fees⁷.

Harry: ⑤ You can always change your mind. You should learn to succeed through your own efforts⁸.

1. Read sentences ① – ⑤. What do the blue words refer to? Complete the table.

Possessive pronoun	① <i>his</i>	Phoebus Lam's materials
Subject pronoun	② <i>They</i>	
Object pronoun	③ <i>him</i>	
Reflexive pronoun	④ <i>themselves</i>	
Possessive adjective	⑤ <i>your</i>	

2. Underline the correct answers. The blue word(s) in sentence(s) ...

(i) ① – ④ replace (nouns / verbs).

(ii) ① and ⑤ show that something (is made by / belongs to) someone.

(iii) ④ shows that the object and the subject of the sentence are (the same / different).

PART 1 Subject pronouns and object pronouns

We use subject pronouns and object pronouns to replace nouns or noun phrases mentioned before to avoid repetition.

Subject pronouns	Object pronouns	Examples
I	me	I like space science. It allows me to explore the universe.
you	you	You are the only witness. We need you in court.
he / she / it	him / her / it	He is well qualified for the job. Let's give him the offer.
we	us	We need a balanced diet. It keeps us healthy.
they	them	They are coming. It will take them some time to arrive.

- **Subject pronouns replace subjects. They usually come before verbs.**

repeating noun **She** subject pronoun
*Jasmine likes doing sport. **Jasmine** plays badminton twice a week.*
 subject verb

- **Object pronouns replace objects. They usually come after verbs or prepositions.**

repeating noun phrase **us** object pronoun
*My family and I stayed in a guest house. The host **showed** my family and me around the city.*
 verb object

repeating noun phrase **them** object pronoun
*Mum bought some apples yesterday. She made an apple pie **with** some apples.*
 preposition object

Reminder

We can use the subject pronoun **it** to refer to the following:

time, dates or the weather	ourselves	other people
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>It's 5 pm already.</i> ▪ <i>It's Friday today.</i> ▪ <i>It's raining heavily.</i> 	<i>It's Luke. Open the door!</i> (The person behind the door cannot see Luke.)	<i>Look. It's Keith. It's John's brother.</i> (when we point people out for the first time)

Exercise 1.1

DRILL

Complete the sentences using the correct subject or object pronouns.

- My sister and I love science. Dad often brings us to the science museum.
- 'I'll hand in the homework to _____ soon,' Albert said to his teacher.
- _____ is Mum's birthday tomorrow. Let's bake a cake for _____!
- Luckily, the hikers found the way out of the forest. _____ were almost lost.
- 'The soup tastes a bit bland. Can you please pass _____ the salt?' Nancy asked Jack.
- Evelyn has two dogs. _____ likes playing with _____.
- Bob and I have worked on this project for months. _____ will present _____ next week.





Exercise 1.2

William is replying to Milo's email. Complete the email using the best subject or object pronouns.

Dear Milo,

It's great to hear from (1) you. I'm thrilled to know that (2) _____'ve won the piano competition! Your parents must be proud of you. Will you celebrate your success with (3) _____?

As for me, my violin teacher, Mr Evans, is quite demanding. (4) _____ wants me to practise three hours a day! I've tried very hard to please (5) _____. Sometimes, my classmates and I play the violin together. I'm glad that music brings (6) _____ together. This also gives (7) _____ the opportunity to learn from like-minded people. I'm happy that (8) _____ get along with (9) _____.

Mr Evans is checking on me again. I've got to go. Give my love to Emily. I miss (10) _____. Keep in touch.

Love,
William

PART 2 Possessive adjectives, possessive pronouns and possessive forms

We use possessive adjectives before nouns or noun phrases to show that something belongs to someone. We use possessive pronouns to replace possessive adjectives and nouns or noun phrases.

Possessive adjectives	Examples	Possessive pronouns	Examples
my	This is <i>my</i> ring.	mine	This ring is <i>mine</i> .
your	This is <i>your</i> key.	yours	This key is <i>yours</i> .
his	That is <i>his</i> cat.	his	That cat is <i>his</i> .
her	This is not <i>her</i> suitcase.	hers	<i>Hers</i> is full.
its	This is <i>its</i> main door.	—	—
our	This is <i>our</i> trophy.	ours	This trophy is <i>ours</i> .
their	<i>Their</i> car is grey.	theirs	This car is <i>theirs</i> .

possessive adjective + noun → *yours* → possessive pronoun

My room is not ready yet. Can I leave my luggage in your room?

object

possessive form + noun → *His* → possessive pronoun

I bought my suit from a chain store, unlike Jason. Jason's suit is tailor-made.

subject



Reminder

Both expressions below indicate a sense of possession.

- Sue said, '*My friend is coming over.*'
- Sue said, '*A friend of mine is coming over.*' (= *A friend of Sue's was coming over.*)

We need an article before the noun.

We use the possessive form to show that a noun belongs to a person, is connected to a place, or to show the relationship between people.

Singular noun	+ 's	▪ <i>the student's parents</i>
Plural noun not ending in -s		▪ <i>women's rights</i>
Proper noun not ending in -s		▪ <i>London's best restaurant</i>
Plural noun ending in -s	+	<i>the babies' bedroom</i>
Proper noun ending in -s	+ 's or '	<i>Charles's / Charles' student card</i>



Exercise 2.1

Circle the correct answers for the following sentences.

- The Japanese take off (theirs / their) shoes before entering the house.
- Annie always wanted to travel to New York. (Her / Hers) wish came true last year.
- This watch is incredible. (Its / It's) sensor can track every way you move.
- My handmade pottery looks nice but I like (Jess' / Jesss') more.
- Gary introduced us to some friends of (his / him).
- Lucy reminded me to bring my passport, but she forgot (hers / her).
- Lower (your / yours) voice when visiting a church. (Its / It's) a sacred place.
- Students need their (guardians's / guardians') permission to join the study tour.
- (Peoples' / People's) attitudes towards organ donation have changed a lot in recent years.
- (Carlos's / Carlos) company was in debt. He laid off one quarter of (his / him) employees.
- A cash prize or a free vacation to Phuket for two people—the choice is (yours / your).
- My neighbours envy our garden because (theirs / their) is not as well-tended as (ours / us).

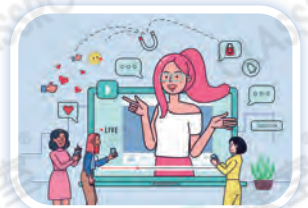


Exercise 2.2

A celebrity is livestreaming. Complete what she says using the best possessive adjectives, possessive pronouns or possessive forms.

I moved into this house with (1) my family last month. (2) _____ surroundings are quiet and pleasant. The first thing you see is (3) _____ living room. Zach chose this sofa. His preference in colour matches (4) _____ perfectly. The table is quite to my liking as well. (5) _____ designer is Nick, (6) _____ groomsmen. Right off the living room is (7) _____ workspace. I always come up with great ideas here. My manager and assistants think up (8) _____ in this area too.

On the second floor is the bedroom. Zach and I sleep here. This huge bed is (9) _____. The smaller ones are for our babies. Yes, a surprise announcement! My twin babies will be here in seven months. I can't wait for (10) _____ arrival!



PART 3 Reflexive pronouns

We use reflexive pronouns when the subject and object of a sentence refer to the same person or thing. Singular forms of reflexive pronouns end in *-self*. Plural forms end in *-selves*.

Forms	Subject pronouns	Reflexive pronouns
singular (-self)	I you he she it	myself yourself himself herself itself
plural (-selves)	we you they	ourselves yourselves themselves

- Olivia accidentally cut *herself* with the new knife.
- The rappers taught *themselves* to beatbox.



We use reflexive pronouns with the preposition *by* to emphasise someone does something alone or without any help.

- The painter lives *by himself* in a huge house.
- Eva knew how to tie her shoes *by herself* at five.

Error Diagnosis

We do not use reflexive pronouns after verbs describing everyday actions that we usually do for ourselves.

Mr Allen shaves himself every morning. ✗ Mr Allen shaves every morning. ✓

We do not use reflexive pronouns alone as a subject, but we can use them with nouns or pronouns to emphasise the subject.

Our elders pass on to the youth what themselves have learnt. ✗

Our elders pass on to the youth what they *themselves* have learnt. ✓

We often use reflexive pronouns after certain verbs or phrases.

Verbs		Phrases			
<i>behave</i>	<i>hurt</i>	<i>ashamed of</i>	<i>laugh at</i>	<i>look after</i>	<i>pleased with</i>
<i>enjoy</i>	<i>teach</i>	<i>proud of</i>	<i>sorry for</i>	<i>take care of</i>	<i>talk to</i>

- Mum asked me to **behave myself** when she was away.
- We should be **ashamed of ourselves**. We have betrayed our best friend!
- Having reached the top of Mount Everest, the female mountaineer was so **pleased with herself**.

Let's compare

Daniel and Sofia are looking at *themselves*.



Daniel and Sofia are looking at *each other*.





Exercise 3.1

Complete the sentences using the correct reflexive pronouns and the correct form of the given words.

by talk to help laugh at look after
 cook for introduce proud of sorry for enjoy

- I saw you guys at the party yesterday. Did you enjoy yourselves ?
- Let me _____. My name is Jeffrey. I'm in Class 1B.
- There are no restaurants in this campsite. We have to _____.
- Elsie _____ after she found that she wore mismatched socks.
- The little penguin has grown rapidly, but it is not big enough to _____.
- This cocktail dress is so beautiful. I can't believe that you made it _____, Lillian!
- Lily and Ethan were able to finish the marathon in five hours. They were _____.
- The mentally ill man often _____ loudly. The passers-by can't help staring at him.
- 'Welcome to my party! Please _____ to the food and drinks,' Jenny said to her guests.
- Self-pity does not help us overcome difficulties. We should not feel _____.



Exercise 3.2

Joe is writing a TV show review. Complete the review using the best pronouns or possessive adjectives.

Man in the Wild: A Must-Watch Programme in October

Man in the Wild is hosted by American explorer Billy Brown. In every episode, Brown teams with a partner and (1) they go through extreme environments by (2) _____.



In one episode, Brown (3) _____ travelled halfway through Siberia in winter and then Jessica Jones joined (4) _____ for the rest of the journey. With less survival experience than Brown, Jones hurt (5) _____ and lost contact with Brown. Luckily, she had a survival guide. (6) _____ taught (7) _____ to build a fire and let the fire burn (8) _____ out for survival. After they met up with each other, they (9) _____ managed to return to civilisation.

The show is both educational and entertaining. You will learn to build a temporary shelter by (10) _____. You will get to know how to find food to stay alive. (11) _____ favourite part is how we can dress a wound by (12) _____. This skill enables (13) _____ to take care of (14) _____ in case I am injured in the wilderness.



If you want something exciting to watch, *Man in the Wild* is definitely (15) _____ cup of tea!



More to take away

civilisation (n.) = a place, such as a large city, where you have the modern things that make life easy

- *After a week of camping, I'm glad to get back to civilisation.*

Grammar in Pre-DSE Text Type

Theme: Study

Sue is editing an essay about co-educational schools. Complete the essay by filling in the blanks using the given words. Write the letters (A–N) in the boxes provided.

Words by Theme



Pros and Cons of Co-educational¹ Schools

In Hong Kong, only ten percent of the secondary schools are single-sex² schools. Some people say that (1) C to co-educational schools because single-sex education is already outdated. However, are co-educational schools necessarily the ideal option? In this article, I will discuss (2) .



Advantages

In co-educational schools, students can (3) . There are activities and clubs that (4) with people of the opposite sex. This is important for a teenager's personal development³, especially before (5) . There are both men and women in the workplace. The earlier we learn to adapt⁴ to such an environment, the better (6) .

Disadvantages

Although (7) , boys and girls might distract (8) . Since (9) , they tend to spend more time impressing the opposite sex. A boy may want to (10) and intelligence⁵. He may also care a lot about his physical appearance. A girl is likely to pay (11) and try to (12) as possible.

To me, both single-sex and co-educational schools have their own deficiencies. (13) we should have the freedom to choose which type of schools to go to. (14) ?

we / us /
they / their /
them /
themselves /
she / hers /
herself /
its / his /
my / yours /
each other

A. _____ from their study
B. it is for _____ in the long run
C. _____ we _____ should change all the single-sex schools
D. What about _____
E. he or _____ starts working
F. _____ pros and cons
G. _____ are going through puberty

H. allow _____ to make friends
I. show off _____ physical strength
J. a co-educational school has _____ benefits
K. _____ opinion is that
L. make _____ as physically attractive
M. equip _____ better with social skills
N. a great deal of attention to _____ too



More to take away

deficiency (n.) = a fault or a weakness in something

We use pronouns to replace nouns or noun phrases so that our writing is clear and concise.

- Florence is a scientist. She studies the origin of the universe. She is fascinated by it. (*She* = Florence; *it* = the origin of the universe)
- Chris loves his sneakers, but he likes yours even more. (*his* = Chris's; *yours* = your sneakers)
- The reason why whales strand themselves on land remains a mystery. (*themselves* = whales)

Version 1

Jasper is writing a debate speech. Read the speech and pay attention to the underlined parts.

Ladies and gentlemen, our motion today is 'face-to-face learning is more effective than distance learning'. We, the affirmative team, strongly believe that this is true as it offers substantial benefits.

When we say 'face-to-face learning', we refer to the traditional learning mode. That means a student has lessons in the classroom. **(1) The student is taught by a teacher and follows the schedule set by the school.** As for distance learning, a student has lessons with a teacher via the internet. **(2) The student and the teacher do not meet in person.**

Our first argument for the motion is that we can stay focused more easily when we are in the classroom with our teachers and classmates. In fact, **(3) teachers use a lot of methods to hold the attention of ours.** Once, **(4) our English teacher asked us to do the puzzles she made on her own to teach us grammar.** She made a boring lesson fun and educational. On the contrary, distance learning usually means a lot of video-watching and text-reading. **(5) Distance learning requires a student to learn on his or her own.** **(6) The nature of distance learning makes a learner lose the learner's focus.**

Our second argument is that students can ask teachers questions and get instant answers from them. As for e-learning, when you do not understand a concept, **(7) you would probably search the concept online and then read several articles.** This process takes a lot of time. **(8) Sometimes you fail to figure out the concept on your own even with the help of the internet.** **(9) If you are in a face-to-face lesson, you can simply ask the teacher to explain the concept.**

Our last argument is that face-to-face learning allows us to interact with other students easily. We usually tend to stick to our own viewpoints, but through discussions with our classmates, **(10) we can listen to their viewpoints and learn from our classmates.** Although online groups also give us the opportunities to discuss with our classmates, **(11) the opportunities can hardly match the experience of face-to-face interaction ...**

Version 2

Rewrite the underlined parts in Version 1 by changing the words in bold into correct pronouns or possessive adjectives.

Ladies and gentlemen, our motion today is 'face-to-face learning is more effective than distance learning'. We, the affirmative team, strongly believe that this is true as it offers substantial benefits.

When we say 'face-to-face learning', we refer to the traditional learning mode. That means a student has lessons in the classroom. **(1)** He or she is taught by a teacher and follows the schedule set by the school. As for distance learning, a student has lessons with a teacher via the internet. **(2)** _____

Our first argument for the motion is that we can stay focused more easily when we are in the classroom with our teachers and classmates. In fact, **(3)** _____
 _____ . Once, **(4)** _____
 _____ . She made a boring lesson fun and educational. On the contrary, distance learning usually means a lot of video-watching and text-reading. **(5)** _____

(6) _____

Our second argument is that students can ask teachers questions and get instant answers from them. As for e-learning, when you do not understand a concept, **(7)** _____
 _____ . This process takes a lot of time.

(8) _____

(9) _____

Our last argument is that face-to-face learning allows us to interact with other students easily. We usually tend to stick to our own viewpoints, but through discussions with our classmates, **(10)** _____
 _____ . Although online groups also give us the opportunities to discuss with our classmates, **(11)** _____
 _____ ...



Brain Breaks

According to the articles in *The Telegraph* and *The New York Times*, the average attention span of a goldfish is nine seconds while that of a man browsing the web is eight seconds.

