

Pronouns

Pronouns are little everyday words that you already know. It's only the name that sounds odd.

Pronouns go instead of Nouns

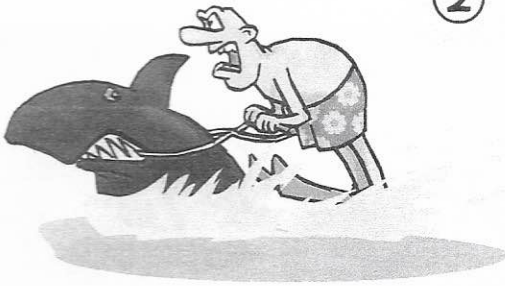
The sentence below looks a bit odd. You don't need to write 'Bob' or 'shark' twice.

① *Bob met a shark and Bob went waterskiing with the shark.*

Instead of writing
'Bob' again, write 'he'.

Instead of writing
'shark' again, write 'it'.

② *Bob met a shark and he went waterskiing with it.*



It sounds much better with the 'he' and 'it' in this sentence.

Words like 'he' and 'it' are called pronouns — you can use them instead of nouns.

Pronouns help us Avoid Repetition

Pronouns are just words you use instead of repeating the same noun over and over again.

The easiest way to spot a pronoun is to see if you can replace it with a name.

Here's a load of pronouns used for talking about one person or thing:

<i>I</i>	➔	<i>me</i>	➔	<i>mine</i>
<i>you</i>	➔	<i>you</i>	➔	<i>yours</i>
<i>he</i>	➔	<i>him</i>	➔	<i>his</i>
<i>she</i>	➔	<i>her</i>	➔	<i>hers</i>
<i>it</i>	➔	<i>it</i>	➔	<i>its</i>

And these are all pronouns you can use for talking about more than one person or thing:

<i>we</i>	➔	<i>us</i>	➔	<i>ours</i>
<i>you</i>	➔	<i>you</i>	➔	<i>yours</i>
<i>they</i>	➔	<i>them</i>	➔	<i>theirs</i>

That noun's great — it's a real pro...

Remember the rule about how to spot a pronoun and you'll always be able to work out if a word is a pronoun. Using pronouns is easy — I bet you already know how, even if you don't realise it. The thing to remember is to use them instead of repeating the same noun over and over again.