

LINGUISHTIK WORKSHEET III.C2

NAME: _____

PRONOUN GENERAL DEMANDS – I (MJS)

There are 5 pronoun general demands that may be called in the Middle Division (words of 4 or more letters that illustrate the demand are underlined):

1. SINGULAR: one of something (Examples: Everybody there owns a house. Mine is red. Theirs is blue.)
2. PLURAL: two or more of something (Examples: They have socks. Mine are red. Theirs are blue.)
3. INDEFINITE: a pronoun that refers to people or things without saying exactly who or what they are (Examples: Anything goes. Everyone runs to the store. I want one of each. I gave most a good grade.)
In addition to not being a personal pronoun, a word must also not be an interrogative, demonstrative (Examples: this, that), or possessive (Examples: mine, yours) pronoun to be an indefinite pronoun. Relative pronouns (i.e., pronouns used to introduce a dependent clause) are also not indefinite unless they are used to introduce noun clauses (Example: Whoever we elect must lead us through hard times. Whoever introduces a noun clause (Whoever we elect) and is an indefinite regular pronoun.)
4. PERSONAL: a pronoun that refers to the one speaking (Examples: I, we, mine, ours), the one spoken to (Examples: you, yours), or the one spoken about (Examples: they, them, ours, yours, theirs).
5. INTERROGATIVE: a pronoun that is used to begin a question (Examples: What is the capital of Florida? Whose is this sweater? Whoever could that be? Whoever could we nominate?)

NOTES:

- Some words can be pronouns, nouns, or adjectives depending on how they are used. Since *the* is a noun marker, the use of *the* before the word makes it a noun.

Examples:

Sixty ran across the field.

In this sentence, *sixty* is a plural indefinite pronoun.

Sixty horses ran across the field.

In this sentence, *sixty* is an adjective modifying *horses*.

The sixty ran across the field.

In this sentence, *the* makes *sixty* a noun.

EXERCISES: Underline each pronoun of 4 or more letters and write whether it is indefinite (IND), personal (PER), interrogative (INT), or none of these (NONE). Also write whether it is singular (SING), plural (PLU), or either (EIT). Also identify its function. Use S for subject, DO for direct object, IO for indirect object, PN for predicate noun, OP for object of the preposition, and AP for appositive.

1. Whoever thought eating this much would be a good idea?
2. Five ate fifty hotdogs, the fifty that were beef.
3. Mine are riper than yours.
4. Someone should give something to whoever they elected, and also to whoever won.

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NAME: _____ ANSWER KEY _____

PRONOUN GENERAL DEMANDS – I (MJS)

1. Whoever thought eating this much would be a good idea?

IND-SING-S

IND-PLU-DO

Whoever, whatever, and whichever are always singular.

This is not underlined because in this sentence it is an adjective.

2. Five ate fifty hotdogs, the fifty that were beef.

IND-PLU-S

NONE-PLU-S

The first occurrence of *fifty* is not a pronoun in this sentence because it is acting as an adjective modifying *hotdogs*.

The second occurrence of *fifty* is not a pronoun in this sentence because it is preceded by *the* and is therefore a noun.

That is a demonstrative pronoun; the plural verb *were* makes it plural.

3. Mine are riper than yours.

PER-PLU-S

PER-EIT-OP (could also be a subject, see explanation below)

A possessive pronoun can be singular or plural, depending on context (especially verb number). *Mine* is plural in this sentence because the verb *are* is plural.

Yours could be either singular or plural in this sentence. For example, My peaches are riper than your peach is. *Mine* (plural) are riper than *yours* (singular). Or, My peaches are riper than your peaches are. *Mine* (plural) are riper than *yours* (plural).

In this sentence, *yours* could be considered an object of the preposition *than*, or if *than* is considered a conjunction, it could be the subject of the ellipsed clause *than yours (is/are)*. The function would be ruled in favor of the solution writer, but would need to be internally consistent: i.e., either *than* is a preposition and *yours* is an object of the preposition, or *than* is a conjunction and *yours* is a subject.

4. Someone should give something to whomever they elected, and also to whoever won.

IND-SING-S

IND-SING-DO

IND-SING-DO

PER-PLU-S

IND-SING-S

Note that *whomever* is correct for an object (such as an indirect object, direct object, or object of the preposition), while *whoever* is correct for a subject (except for the subject of an infinitive clause—see section on infinitive clauses). In this sentence, *whomever* is the direct object in the noun clause *whomever they elected*, and *whoever* is the subject of the clause *whoever won*.