**ENGLISH LANGUAGE - WEEK 2 JSS 2**

**GRAMMAR – PRONOUNS, MEANING AND TYPES**

1. **DEFINITION**: A pronoun is a word used to replace a noun in a sentence. This is done to avoid repetition of a particular noun used earlier. Consider the sentence below.

My **mother** forgot to take my **mother’s** keys when my **mother** went to my **mother’s** shop this morning. The sentence can be properly written as: My mother forgot to take **her** keys when **she** went to **her** shop this morning. Some examples of pronouns are: her, him, she, it, they, we, me, us, you, etc.

1. **TYPES OF PRONOUNS**

There are several types of pronouns in English Language such as the personal, relative, demonstrative, interrogative, indefinite, possessive and reflexive pronouns.

**Personal Pronouns**

A personal pronoun is a pronoun that refers to a person or thing. Examples are: I, we, you, she, he, and they. It has three forms which are: first person, second person and third person. The table below outlines the various forms of the personal pronoun.

**The Person in Personal Pronouns**

I 1st  person singular

We 1st  person plural

You 2nd  person singular

You 2nd person plural

He 3rd male, singular

She 3rd female, singular

It 3rd person, neuter, singular

They 3rd person plural

**Examples**

I go to school every day (1st person singular).

We go to school every day (1st person plural).

You (John) have one week to prepare (2nd person singular).

You (students) have one week to prepare for your examination (2nd person plural).

He goes to school once a week (3rd person singular).

They go to school once a week (3rd person plural).

**Relative Pronouns**

A relative pronoun is the pronoun that is used to introduce relative clause. Examples of relative pronouns are: which, that, what and who.

**Sentence examples:**

1**.** Here is Doctor Tunde **whom** I told you about.

2. We saw the horse **that** (or **which**) won the race.

3. The woman, **whose** husband died in a plane crash has remarried.

**Demonstrative Pronouns**

These are pronouns that point out particular persons, places or things. They are:

**Singular Plural**

This These

That Those

Their examples in sentences are as follows:

**This** is the book, which you gave me.

**That** clock belongs to the school.

**These** are my friends.

**Those** are your books.

**Interrogative Pronouns**

They are pronouns used in asking questions. Interrogative pronouns are: what, which, who, whom and whose.

1. **Who** stole your pen?
2. **What** is the time?
3. **Which** road did the robbers take?
4. From **whom** did you borrow the money?

**Indefinite Pronouns**

They are pronouns that do not refer to any person, amount, or thing in particular, e.g. anyone, anything, something, everyone, both, few, each other, nobody, nothing, someone, neither, no one etc.

**Everyone** is free to attend the ceremony.

I gave the umbrella to **someone.**

**Few** students are present today.

**Possessive Pronouns**

These are pronouns that show or indicate ownership or possession of something. They include: mine, ours, yours, hers, theirs, his, its. E.g.

1. That house is **mine**.
2. The car is **yours**.
3. The black bag is **hers**.
4. The dog has eaten **its** food.
5. The food in the big pot is **theirs**.

**Reflexive Pronouns**

These are pronouns that make reference to the subject in the sentence. They are also known as emphasizing pronouns when they occur immediately after the subject in the sentence. Reflexive pronouns are: himself, herself, myself, itself, themselves, ourselves, and yourselves.

**Examples**

1. My sister washes her clothes herself.
2. I cut myself with a knife.
3. We have enjoyed ourselves.
4. I can do it myself.

**ASSIGNMENT**

1. What are pronouns?
2. List four (4) types of pronoun.
3. Underline pronouns in each of the sentences below.
4. I am a girl.
5. Our church is big.
6. I trust everyone but her.
7. Whose child are you?
8. Those cars are mine.
9. Mary irons her uniforms herself.
10. Rewrite the sentences below and change the underlined nouns or phrases to pronouns.
11. John’s father is a doctor.
12. Mary and Janet are going home.
13. My sister is my best friend.
14. The cat has three kittens.
15. FISS students are intelligent.