

Seminar 7B – Tasks / Worksheet 7

I. Questions

1. Give a few examples of the following pronouns:

- a) relative
- b) interrogative
- c) demonstrative
- d) personal
- e) possessive
- f) indefinite assertive
- g) indefinite non-assertive
- h) indefinite universal
- i) reflexive
- j) reciprocal

+ Which of them are called '*central pronouns*'?

2. Which *morphological categories* do pronouns have that are not found with nouns?
Give examples.

3. Which of the following sentences are right (consider the *order of the pronouns*):

- a) She and he were late for the meeting.
- b) I and you can work together on the project.
- c) She and her children were invited to a party.
- d) His wife and he are fluent in English.
- e) Did they tell you and her about the meeting?
- f) Why don't I and you go away for the weekend?

4. Sometimes we do not know the gender. How can we solve this problem?

e.g. *A good student will spend a lot of _____ time doing homework.*

Which *personal pronoun* is common to use with *indefinite pronouns*?

- e.g. Every person made _____ own travel arrangements.
Has everybody got _____ ticket / tickets?
Not every drug addict can solve _____ problem so easily.
Someone died here yesterday, didn't _____ ?

5. Explain the terms 'subjective' and 'objective territory'. How is this distinction important with pronouns? Is it the same with nouns?

6. Is there any difference between the following reactions? Are they both correct?

Who's that? – It's I. / It's me.

7. Change the following sentences using a more formal way:

- a) My sister is nearly as tall as *me*.
- b) I can run faster than *her*.

8. What forms do we use after 'except' and 'but (used as a preposition)? Choose the correct form:

- a) Everybody but *I/me* understood.
- b) Everybody except *he/him* can come.
- c) We are all ready except *she/her*.
- d) Nobody but *she/her* would do such a thing.

9. Do the following sentences contain *anaphoric* or *cataphoric* reference?

- a) When he finished his work, John went home.
- b) George was the best student, so he was expected to pass the exam with flying colours.
- c) On his arrival in the capital, the Secretary of State declared support for the government.
- d) Jacqueline thinks she understands me.
- e) She thinks that Jacqueline understands me.

Consider the meaning of d) and e) – do they mean the same?

10. The following sentence is *ambiguous*. Explain why and suggest how we could avoid ambiguity here:

e.g. When Carol arrived in Mr White's house, she was so upset that she couldn't get to sleep, so she had to give her a sleeping pill.

11. Write sentences using the pronouns 'we, you, they' as *generics* (= pronouns with a generic reference).

12. Give examples of sentences where the pronoun 'it' is used as an 'empty' (or 'prop') subject.

13. Give examples of *modification* of pronouns by:

- a) adjective
- b) appositive noun
- c) 'here'
- d) 'there'
- e) prepositional phrase
- f) a universal pronoun
- g) a relative clause

II. PRACTICE

1. Finish the questions to fit the given answers, use 'it' as the subject of the question:

1. How _____ to the airport? – Well, about 30 minutes.
2. What day _____? – It's Monday.
3. Was _____ yesterday? – Yes, in the morning, and then it rained in the afternoon as well.
4. What _____? – It's almost 7 o'clock.
5. Is _____ rain? – No, the weather forecast says it's going to be a nice day.

2. Read the sentences and in each underline the word or words to which the subject 'it' refers:

1. It's dangerous to walk in the road.
2. It didn't take us long to get there.
3. It's a pity that Carol couldn't come to the party.
4. Let's go. It's not worth waiting any longer.
5. It must be difficult for her to get a job.

3. Put the words in brackets in the most appropriate (the most common) order:

1. _____ must be very happy. (his wife, he)
2. _____ were interviewed by the police. (another girl, she)
3. _____ want to move to the country. (my parents, I)
4. _____ agree with me, don't you? (you, Peter)
5. _____ have been very good friends for years. (Carol, I, John)

4. Fill in the appropriate pronouns:

1. _____ left their keys in my office. Do you happen to know who?
2. Everyone should consider _____ decision carefully.
3. I am more intelligent than _____ is. – Well, you're quite right. He's not very bright.
4. Carol is a bit lazy. Other students work more than _____.
5. Nobody except _____ knew the answer. She seems to know everything.
6. Nobody but _____ can give you some advice. He's a real expert.
7. (doctor talking to his patient) Good morning, Mr Bailey. How are _____ feeling today?
8. Do you know that _____ are going to raise taxes again?
9. _____ must take care of the environment more, for example sort out the waste.
10. How is _____ going? – Not bad, but I'm quite busy these days.

5. Supply the pronouns:

1. Your parcel has arrived. _____ was delivered this morning.
2. Jane and I have already eaten. _____ had a meal before we left home.
3. So, you've had a baby! Is _____ a boy or a girl?
4. Who's that? - _____'s my mother. Would you like to meet _____?
5. Whose cat is that? _____'s always in the garden.
6. Who's that man over there? - _____'s our neighbour, Mr Grey.
7. You can invite him to your house. - _____! You must be joking.
8. She is taller than _____ but I am stronger than _____.
9. John is good at sports, isn't he? – Yes, but Mary is better than _____ is.
10. Who is Mr. Thompson? - _____ is my father's colleague.

6. Rephrase the following sentences using 'it' as the subject:

1. Making decisions is difficult. _____
2. Lying in the sun is pleasant. _____
3. Learning languages is very useful. _____
4. Paris is 100 kilometres from here. _____
5. He's certainly arriving today. _____