

## Personal Pronouns

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**Our revised noun-phrase rule allows our grammar to generate phrases with a great variety of structures, such as the underlined subjects of these sentences:**

John amazed George.

The acrobats amazed George.

The zany, spontaneous exuberance of the chimpanzees in the circus amazed George

- Another class of words can also act as noun phrases.

He amazed George.

They amazed George.

It amazed George.

- The words He, They, It are called PERSONAL PRONOUNS (Prop). In traditional grammar, a pronoun is defined as a word that is used as a substitute for a noun. That is not quite accurate, because a pronoun substitutes for all the words in a noun phrase.
- In the above sentences, the pronouns are equivalent to the entire underlined noun phrases. For example, the pronoun *it* is used in place of (and with the same meaning as) *the zany, spontaneous exuberance of the chimpanzees in the circus*.

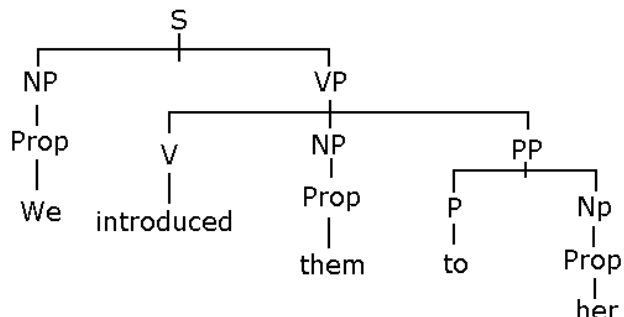
- **Because a noun phrase can consist simply of a personal pronoun, our phrase-structure rule needs to be expanded:**

NP -----> { (Art) (Adj)+ N (PP) }  
   Prop

- **The above rule states that a noun phrase can be one of two things:**
  - 1- a phrase consisting of a noun with or without the optional modifiers or else
  - 2- a simple pronoun.

- **The above rule allows grammar to generate sentences such as the following:**

We introduced them to her.



- **The following lists the personal pronouns in the English language:**

**1<sup>st</sup> person= speaker(s):** Singular ( I / me)      Plural (we / us)

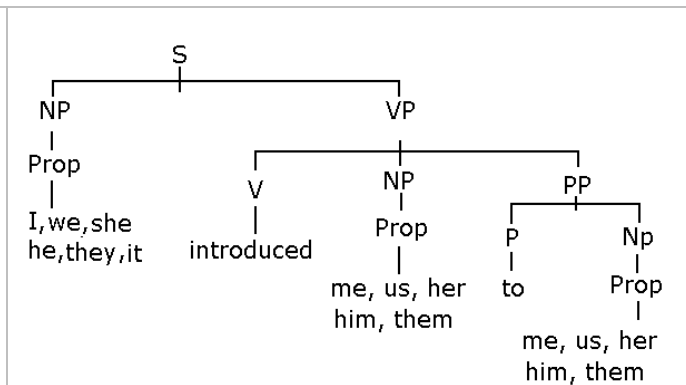
**2<sup>nd</sup> person= hearer(s):** Singular (you /you)      Plural (you /you)

**3<sup>rd</sup> person= person(s):** Singular (She/her He /him It/ it)      Plural ( they /them)

- Of the three persons, FIRST PERSON refers to the speaker; SECOND PERSON refers to the hearer (the person spoken to); and THIRD PERSON refers to the person or thing being spoken about.
- A SINGULAR pronoun refers to, of course, to a single person or thing, while a PLURAL pronoun refers to more than one.
- Notice that for the SECOND PERSON, **you** is used for both SINGULAR and PLURAL.
- The difference between I and me ( and between we/us, she/her, and the other pairs) is that the former ( I, we, she and so on) are said to be in the NOMINATIVE or SUBJECTIVE CASE, while the latter ( me, us, her and so on) are said to be in the OBJECTIVE CASE.
- The nominative form is used for a sentence's SUBJECT (the noun phrase that precedes the verb), while the objective form is used for a DIRECT OBJECT ( the noun phrase that follows a transitive verb) or for an OBJECT OF A PREPOSITION ( the noun phrase that follows a preposition).

**Consider the following example:**

-(I, we, she, he, they) introduced (me, us, her, him, them) to (me, us, her, him, them)



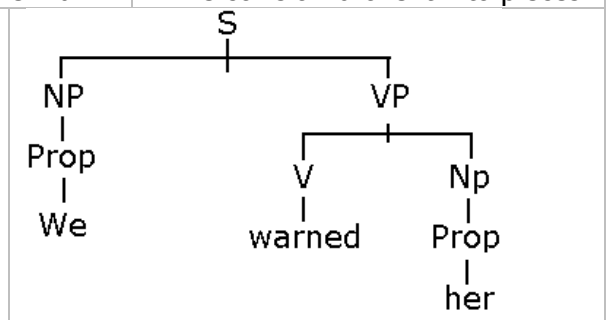
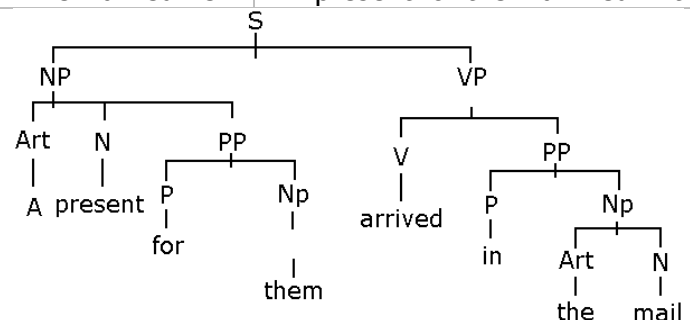
**Exercises**

1- Draw trees for the following sentences:

- We warned her.

- A present for them arrived in the mail.

- The collision broke it into pieces.



Notes:

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