



2.3 Nonbinary Pronouns - Pronoun Closet

Suggested Grade Level: 6-12

Time: 40 minutes

Subject Area: Gender, Trans, Non-binary

Overview:

The activity leader will explain what a gender pronoun is and give examples then show how to use <http://www.pronouns.failedslacker.com/#pronounSelect> to try out different pronouns and see how pronouns are conjugated and used in texts.

Goals:

- Understand what gender pronouns are
- Learn what common preferred pronouns are for non-binary/gender nonconforming people.

Materials:

- A way of displaying a website to the group
- Included handouts

Procedure:

Step One:

The activity leader begins by explaining what gender pronouns are and giving examples. Be sure to include they/them/their/themself as an example as well as at least one nonbinary pronoun like ze/hir/hirs/hirself.

Step Two:

The activity leader then will show the website (<http://www.pronouns.failedslacker.com/#pronounSelect>) and explain the handouts and how to use them.

Step Three:

The group can experiment with the handouts and ask questions they feel are relevant. (They/them has it's own hand out because they/them still conjugated verbs plurally)

Pronouns List

1. Subjective - Subject of the sentence (*We* pet the dog)
2. Objective - Who the verb references (Please talk to *him*)
3. Possessive determiner - Adj. eptive that shows possession (*Their* jacket is cute)
4. Possessive pronoun - Something belongs to someone; no noun follows (That chair is *hers*)
5. Reflexive - Indicates that verb acts on the subject (She teaches *herself* math)

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. They 2. Them 3. Their 4. Theirs 5. Themselves
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. She 2. Her 3. Hers 4. Hers 5. Herself 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. He 2. Him 3. His 4. His 5. Himself
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It 2. It 3. Its 4. Its 5. Itself 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ze (Zee) 2. Zir (Zeer) 3. Zir (Zeer) 4. Zirs (Zeers) 5. Zirself (Zeer-self)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hir (Heer) 2. Hir (Heer) 3. Hir (Heer) 4. Hirs (Heers) 5. Hirself (Heerself) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sie (See) 2. Sier (Sear) 3. Sier (Sear) 4. Siers (Sears) 5. Sierself (Sear-self)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ey (E) 2. Em (M) 3. Eir (Ear) 4. Eirs (Ears) 5. Emself/Eirself (M-self, Ear-self) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Xe (Zee) 2. Xem (Zem) 3. Xyr (Zeer) 4. Xyrs (Zeers) 5. Xemself (Zem-self)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ae (ay) 2. Aer (Air) 3. Aer (Air) 4. Aers (Airz) 5. Aerself (Air-self) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fae (Fay) 2. Faer (Fair) 3. Faer (Fair) 4. Faers (Fairs) 5. Faerself (Fair-self)

Generic Text:

Key:

1. Name _____
2. Subjective _____
3. Objective _____
4. Possessive determiner _____
5. Possessive pronoun _____
6. Reflexive _____
7. Type of person (person, girl, boy...) _____

Hello! Today I met a (7) _____ who goes by (1) _____. (2) _____ has a wonderful personality. That smile of (5) _____ really makes me happy. I could talk to (3) _____ all day although (2) _____ doesn't talk about (6) _____ much. I wonder if (4) _____ day has been wonderful. I hope so!

Alice in Wonderland

Key:

1. Name _____
2. Subjective _____
3. Objective _____
4. Possessive determiner _____
5. Possessive pronoun _____
6. Reflexive _____
7. Type of person (person, girl, boy...) _____

(1) _____ was beginning to get very tired of sitting by (4) _____ sister on the bank, and of having nothing to do: once or twice (2) _____ had peeped into the book

(4) _____ sister was reading, but it had no pictures or conversations in it, "and what is the use of a book," thought (1) _____ "without pictures or conversation?"

So (2) _____ was considering in (4) _____ own mind (as well as

(2) _____ could, for the hot day made (3) _____ feel very sleepy and stupid),

whether the pleasure of making a daisy-chain would be worth the trouble of getting up and picking the daisies, when suddenly a White Rabbit with pink eyes ran close by (3) _____.

There was nothing so VERY remarkable in that; nor did (1) _____ think it so VERY much out of the way to hear the Rabbit say to itself, "Oh dear! Oh dear! I shall be late!" (when

(2) _____ thought it over afterwards, it occurred to (3) _____ that

(2) _____ ought to have wondered at this, but at the time it all seemed quite natural); but

when the Rabbit actually TOOK A WATCH OUT OF ITS WAISTCOAT-POCKET, and looked at it, and then hurried on, (1) _____ started to (4) _____ feet, for it flashed across

(4) _____ mind that (2) _____ had never before seen a rabbit with either a

waistcoat-pocket, or a watch to take out of it, and burning with curiosity, (2) _____ ran across the field after it, and fortunately was just in time to see it pop down a large rabbit-hole under the hedge.

In another moment down went (1) _____ after it, never once considering how in the world

(2) _____ was to get out again.

The rabbit-hole went straight on like a tunnel for some way, and then dipped suddenly down, so

suddenly that (1) _____ had not a moment to think about stopping (6) _____ before

(2) _____ found (6) _____ falling down a very deep well.

Either the well was very deep, or (2) _____ fell very slowly, for (2) _____ had

plenty of time as (2) _____ went down to look about (3) _____ and to wonder what was going to happen next. First, (2) _____ tried to look down and make out what

(2) _____ was coming to, but it was too dark to see anything; then (2) _____

looked at the sides of the well, and noticed that they were filled with cupboards and book-shelves; here

and there (2) _____ saw maps and pictures hung upon pegs. (2) _____ took down a

jar from one of the shelves as (2) _____ passed; it was labelled "ORANGE MARMALADE", but to (4) _____ great disappointment it was empty: (2) _____ did not like to drop

the jar for fear of killing somebody, so managed to put it into one of the cupboards as

(2) _____ fell past it.

"Well!" thought (1) _____ to (6) _____, "after such a fall as this, I shall think nothing of tumbling down stairs! How brave they'll all think me at home! Why, I wouldn't say anything about it, even if I fell off the top of the house!" (Which was very likely true.)

"But I'm NOT a serpent, I tell you!" said (1) _____. "I'm a-I'm a-"

"Well! WHAT are you?" said the Pigeon. "I can see you're trying to invent something!"

"I-I'm a (7) _____," said (1) _____, rather doubtfully, as (2) _____ remembered the number of changes (2) _____ had gone through that day.

"A likely story indeed!" said the Pigeon in a tone of the deepest contempt. "I've seen a good many (7) _____s in my time, but never ONE with such a neck as that! No, no! You're a serpent; and there's no use denying it. I suppose you'll be telling me next that you never tasted an egg!"

"I HAVE tasted eggs, certainly," said (1) _____, who was a very truthful child; "but (7) _____s eat eggs quite as much as serpents do, you know."

"I don't believe it," said the Pigeon; "but if they do, why then they're a kind of serpent, that's all I can say."

This was such a new idea to (1) _____, that (2) _____ was quite silent for a minute or two, which gave the Pigeon the opportunity of adding, "You're looking for eggs, I know THAT well enough; and what does it matter to me whether you're a (7) _____ or a serpent?"

"It matters a good deal to ME," said (1) _____ hastily; "but I'm not looking for eggs, as it happens; and if I was, I shouldn't want YOURS: I don't like them raw."

"Well, be off, then!" said the Pigeon in a sulky tone, as it settled down again into its nest.

(1) _____ crouched down among the trees as well as (2) _____ could, for

(4) _____ neck kept getting entangled among the branches, and every now and then

(2) _____ had to stop and untwist it. After a while (2) _____ remembered that

(2) _____ still held the pieces of mushroom in (4) _____ hands, and

(2) _____ set to work very carefully, nibbling first at one and then at the other, and growing sometimes taller and sometimes shorter, until (2) _____ had succeeded in bringing

(6) _____ down to (4) _____ usual height.

"Oh, I've had such a curious dream!" said (1) _____, and (2) _____ told

(4) _____ sister, as well as (2) _____ could remember them, all these strange

Adventures of (5) _____ that you have just been reading about; and when

(2) _____ had finished, (4) _____ sister kissed (3) _____, and said, "It

WAS a curious dream, dear, certainly: but now run in to your tea; it's getting late." So

(1) _____ got up and ran off, thinking while (2) _____ ran, as well

(2) _____ might, what a wonderful dream it had been.

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz by L. Frank Baum

Key:

1. Name _____
2. Subjective _____
3. Objective _____
4. Possessive determiner _____
5. Possessive pronoun _____
6. Reflexive _____
7. Type of person (person, girl, boy...) _____

"And who was the first?" I asked.

"Someone who is working at the chemical laboratory up at the hospital. (2) _____ was bemoaning (6) _____ this morning because (2) _____ could not get someone to go halves with (3) _____ in some nice rooms which (2) _____ had found, and which were too much for (4) _____ purse."

"By Jove!" I cried, "if (2) _____ really wants someone to share the rooms and the expense, I am the very man for (3) _____. I should prefer having a partner to being alone."

Young Stamford looked rather strangely at me over his wine-glass. "You don't know (1) _____ yet," he said; "perhaps you would not care for (3) _____ as a constant companion."

"Why, what is there against (3) _____?"

"Oh, I didn't say there was anything against (3) _____. (2) _____ is a little eccentric in those ideas of (5) _____ -an enthusiast in some branches of science. As far as I know (2) _____ is a decent enough (7) _____."

"A medical student, I suppose?" said I.

"No-I have no idea what (2) _____ intends to go in for. I believe (2) _____ is well up in anatomy, and (2) _____ is a first-class chemist; but, as far as I know, (2) _____ has never taken out any systematic medical classes. (4) _____ studies are very desultory and eccentric, but (2) _____ has amassed a lot of out-of-the way knowledge which would astonish (4) _____ professors."

"Did you never ask (3) _____ what (2) _____ was going in for?" I asked.

"No; (2) _____ is not a (7) _____ that it is easy to draw out, though (2) _____ can be communicative enough when the fancy seizes (3) _____."

"I should like to meet (3) _____," I said. "If I am to lodge with anyone, I should prefer someone of studious and quiet habits. I am not strong enough yet to stand much noise or excitement. I had enough of both in Afghanistan to last me for the remainder of my natural existence. How could I meet this friend of yours?"

"(2) _____ is sure to be at the laboratory," returned my companion. "(2) _____ either avoids the place for weeks, or else (2) _____ works there from morning to night. If you like, we shall drive round together after luncheon."

"Certainly," I answered, and the conversation drifted away into other channels.

As we made our way to the hospital after leaving the Holborn, Stamford gave me a few more particulars about the (7)_____ whom I proposed to take as a fellow-lodger.

"You mustn't blame me if you don't get on with (3)_____, " he said; "I know nothing more of (3)_____ than I have learned from meeting (3)_____ occasionally in the laboratory. You proposed this arrangement, so you must not hold me responsible."

"If we don't get on it will be easy to part company," I answered. "It seems to me, Stamford," I added, looking hard at my companion, "that you have some reason for washing your hands of the matter. Is this (7)_____ 's temper so formidable, or what is it? Don't be mealy-mouthed about it."

"It is not easy to express the inexpressible," he answered with a laugh. "(1)_____ is a little too scientific for my tastes-it approaches to cold-bloodedness. I could imagine (4)_____ giving a friend a little pinch of the latest vegetable alkaloid, not out of malevolence, you understand, but simply out of a spirit of inquiry in order to have an accurate idea of the effects. To do (3)_____ justice, I think that (2)_____ would take it (6)_____ with the same readiness. (2)_____ appears to have a passion for definite and exact knowledge."

The Piebald Hippogriff by Karen Anderson

Key:

1. Name _____
2. Subjective _____
3. Objective _____
4. Possessive determiner _____
5. Possessive pronoun _____
6. Reflexive _____
7. Type of person (person, girl, boy...) _____

When (1)_____ awoke the sun was shining through the trees and Toto had long been out chasing birds and squirrels around him. (2)_____ sat up and looked around

(3)_____. There was the Scarecrow, still standing patiently in his corner, waiting for

(3)_____.

"We must go and search for water," (2)_____ said to him.

"Why do you want water?" he asked.

"To wash my face clean after the dust of the road, and to drink, so the dry bread will not stick in my throat."

"It must be inconvenient to be made of flesh," said the Scarecrow thoughtfully, "for you must sleep, and eat and drink. However, you have brains, and it is worth a lot of bother to be able to think properly."

They left the cottage and walked through the trees until they found a little spring of clear water, where (1)_____ drank and bathed and ate (6)_____ breakfast. (2)_____ saw there was not much bread left in the basket, and the (7)_____ was thankful the Scarecrow did not have to eat anything, for there was scarcely enough for (6)_____ and Toto for the day.

When (2)_____ had finished this meal of (5)_____, and was about to go back to the road of yellow brick, (2)_____ was startled to hear a deep groan near by.

"What was that?" (2)_____ asked timidly.

"I cannot imagine," replied the Scarecrow; "but we can go and see."

Just then another groan reached their ears, and the sound seemed to come from behind them. They turned and walked through the forest a few steps, when (1)_____ discovered something shining in a ray of sunshine that fell between the trees. (2)_____ ran to the place and then stopped short, with a little cry of surprise.

One of the big trees had been partly chopped through, and standing beside it, with an uplifted axe in his hands, was a man made entirely of tin. His head and arms and legs were jointed upon his body, but he stood perfectly motionless, as if he could not stir at all.

(1)_____ looked at him in amazement, and so did the Scarecrow, while Toto barked sharply and made a snap at the tin legs, which hurt his teeth.

They/Them

Key:

1. Name _____
2. Type of person (person, girl, boy...) _____

Generic Text

Hello! Today I met a (2) _____ who goes by (1) _____. They have a wonderful personality. That smile of theirs really makes me happy. I could talk to them all day although They don't talk about themselves much. I wonder if their day has been wonderful. I hope so!

A Study in Scarlet by Arthur Conan Doyle

"And who was the first?" I asked.

"Someone who is working at the chemical laboratory up at the hospital. They were bemoaning themselves this morning because they could not get someone to go halves with them in some nice rooms which they had found, and which were too much for their purse."

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