

Pronominal Adjectives

Introduction - Pronominal Adjectives

1) An adjective is a word or set of words that modifies (i.e. describes) a noun (e.g. girl, boy etc.) or pronoun (e.g. we, it etc.). Adjectives may come before or after the word they modify.

*This is a **cute** cat. This cat is **cute**.*

2) There are many kinds of adjectives. Among them there is a category of limiting adjectives. They help to define or 'limit' a noun or pronoun by telling which one, what kind, or how many.

This sandwich is delicious.

In the category of limiting adjectives there are pronominal adjectives. Pronominal adjectives are pronouns which are used to modify nouns. They would be pronouns if they stood by themselves in the place of the noun that they represent.

This book is interesting. (This is a pronominal adjective. It modifies the noun 'book'.)

This is an interesting book. (This is a pronoun. It represents the noun 'book'.)

Pronominal adjectives can be subdivided into the following groups:

a) demonstrative adjectives (*this, that, these, those*).

Those shoes were old-fashioned. These shoes are much better.

b) possessive adjectives (*my, your, his, her, its, our, their*).

Their cat likes to sleep on the floor.

c) distributive adjectives (*each, every, either, neither*).

Every attempt was met with suspicion.

d) interrogative adjectives (*which, what, whose*).

Whose pants are these?

e) indefinite adjectives (*some, any, all, few, several, many, both, little, much, more, most*).

Both parents were present.

Short Story Dialogue

– **Whose** book is this?

– This is **my** book. I've been reading it for **several** days.

– The title of **this** book looks really catchy.

– Yeah, I won't deny that. And I have this new year's resolution to read **more** books, so I thought that I would give **this** book a try.

– **What** books do you usually read though?

– Hmm I like to read **some** fantasy or sci-fi novels. And the plot has to be interesting!

– Yeah, I agree with **your** opinion.

Independent Practice - Pronominal Adjectives

1) Underline the pronominal adjectives and decide whether they are demonstrative, possessive, distributive, interrogative, or indefinite.

- a. Thank you! These flowers are beautiful.
- b. Every child has the right to life.
- c. Which colour should I pick? Red or blue?
- d. I'm afraid he will need several days to recover.
- e. It is said that neither side of the brain is dominant over the other.
- f. I don't find that TV show amusing.
- g. I like her new haircut. It looks stylish.
- h. I could tell that the dog was happy to see me by its wiggling tail.
- i. Those seconds of pure happiness were difficult to forget.
- j. Do you know whose jacket this is?

Independent Practice: Answers - Pronominal Adjectives

1) Underline the pronominal adjectives and decide whether they are demonstrative, possessive, distributive, interrogative, or indefinite.

- a. Thank you! These flowers are beautiful. (demonstrative adjective)
- b. Every child has the right to life. (distributive adjective)
- c. Which colour should I pick? Red or blue? (interrogative adjective)
- d. I'm afraid he will need several days to recover. (indefinite adjective)
- e. It is said that neither side of the brain is dominant over the other. (distributive adjective)
- f. I don't find that TV show amusing. (demonstrative adjective)
- g. I like her new haircut. It looks stylish. (possessive adjective)
- h. I could tell that the dog was happy to see me by its wiggling tail. (possessive adjective)
- i. Those seconds of pure happiness were difficult to forget. (demonstrative adjective)
- j. Do you know whose jacket this is? (interrogative adjective)