Pronouns and Determiners

*A **pronoun** takes the place of a noun (Sophia → **she**). A **determiner** comes before a noun and tells us which one or how many (**my** horse, **this** field, **every** day). Small words, used in almost every sentence.*

A1–B2 · with Spanish

Personal pronouns

SUBJECT	OBJECT	POSSESSIVE (+ NOUN)	POSSESSIVE (ALONE)	REFLEXIVE	ESPAÑOL
I	me	my	mine	myself	*yo · me · mi · mío*
you	you	your	yours	yourself	*tú · te · tu · tuyo*
he	him	his	his	himself	*él · lo, le · su · suyo*
she	her	her	hers	herself	*ella · la, le · su · suyo*
it	it	its	—	itself	*— · lo, la · su · suyo*
we	us	our	ours	ourselves	*nosotros · nos · nuestro*
you	you	your	yours	yourselves	*vosotros · os · vuestro*
they	them	their	theirs	themselves	*ellos · los, les · su · suyo*

She sees **him**. · This is **her** horse. · The horse is **hers**. · She taught **herself** to ride.

Never drop the subject

English needs one

It is raining. — *Llueve.*

It is late. — *Es tarde.*

It is cold today. — *Hace frío hoy.*

There is a dog in the yard. — *Hay un perro en el patio.*

I am tired. — *Estoy cansado.*

it for weather, time and distance; there is / there are for "hay"

He, she, it or they?

choosing the pronoun

he / she for people — *él / ella*

it for things and most animals — *(sin pronombre)*

he / she for pets and animals we know well — *él / ella*

they one person, man or woman unknown: *Someone left **their** coat.* — *Alguien dejó su abrigo.*

they people in general: *They say it will rain.* — *Dicen que lloverá.*

*his / her agree with the owner, not the thing: Sophia and **her** brother*

Reflexive pronouns

-self, -selves

hurt yourself be careful! — *hacerse daño*

enjoy yourselves at the party — *divertirse*

by myself alone — *yo solo*

do it yourself without help — *hazlo tú mismo*

each other not themselves — *se miraron (uno al otro)*

Many Spanish reflexives are not reflexive in English: levantarse = get up

General pronouns

people in general

You never know. — *Nunca se sabe.*

One must be patient. (formal) — *Hay que ser paciente.*

They sell good bread there. — *Allí venden buen pan.*

People say it's true. — *Se dice que es verdad.*

We all make mistakes. — *Todos cometemos errores.*

Spanish often uses se: se habla inglés = English is spoken / they speak English

© Trivium Home School · triviumhomeschool.com

More pronouns

Some-, any-, no-, every-

indefinite pronouns and adverbs

	PERSON	THING	PLACE
some-	**someone / somebody** *alguien*	**something** *algo*	**somewhere** *en algún sitio*
any-	**anyone / anybody** *alguien (?) · nadie (–) · cualquiera*	**anything** *algo (?) · nada (–) · cualquier cosa*	**anywhere** *en ningún / cualquier sitio*
no-	**no one / nobody** *nadie*	**nothing** *nada*	**nowhere** *en ningún sitio*
every-	**everyone / everybody** *todos, todo el mundo*	**everything** *todo*	**everywhere** *en todas partes*

*Everyone **is** here (singular verb). Only one negative: I didn't see **anybody** = I saw **nobody**, never "didn't see nobody".*

This, that, these, those

near and far

this calf (here, one) — *este ternero*

these calves (here, more) — *estos terneros*

that barn (there, one) — *ese / aquel granero*

those hills (there, more) — *esos / aquellos montes*

this one or that one? — *¿este o ese?*

That's right! (about an idea) — *¡Eso es!*

English has two distances; Spanish has three (este, ese, aquel)

Relative pronouns

joining a clause to a noun

who the farmer who sells eggs — *que, quien*

which the barn which burned — *que, el cual*

that the field that we ploughed — *que*

whose the girl whose pony won — *cuyo, cuya*

where the village where I grew up — *donde*

when the day when we met — *cuando*

what What I need is sleep. — *lo que*

who for people, which for things, that for both

Question words

wh- words

who? Who milks the cows? — *¿quién?*

what? What is that noise? — *¿qué?*

which? Which path is shorter? — *¿cuál?*

whose? Whose dog is this? — *¿de quién?*

where? Where do you live? — *¿dónde?*

when? When does the market open? — *¿cuándo?*

why? Why are you late? — *¿por qué?*

how? How do you make cheese? — *¿cómo?*

how much? How much milk? — *¿cuánto?*

how many? How many sheep? — *¿cuántos?*

what = an open choice; which = a choice from a known set

© Trivium Home School · triviumhomeschool.com

Determiners

a, an, the, or nothing?

articles

a / an first mention; one of many	*a farm, an egg*
an before a vowel sound	*an hour, a university*
a / an jobs	*She is a vet. (Es veterinaria.)*
the already known; only one	*the farm, the sun*
the rivers, seas, ranges	*the Ebro, the Alps*
— general plurals and uncountables	*Cows eat grass.*
— meals, sports, languages	*after lunch; I play tennis*
— at home, in bed, to school	*He's at home.*

Spanish uses the article for general ideas: El pan es caro = Bread is expensive

Possessives

my or mine?

my, your, his... + noun	*This is my horse.*
mine, yours, his... alone	*This horse is mine.*
a friend of mine one of my friends	*un amigo mío*
whose asking the owner	*Whose is this coat?*
my own emphasis	*her own farm*
their for they	*The Smiths and their dogs*

No article with possessives: my book, not "the my book"

Each, every, all, both...

distributives

each one by one (2 or more)	*cada*
every all, as a group (3 or more)	*cada, todos los*
all the whole group	*todos*
the whole all of one thing	*the whole day: todo el día*
both the two together	*ambos*
either one or the other	*cualquiera de los dos*
neither not one, not the other	*ninguno de los dos*
another / other one more / different ones	*otro, otros*

each / every + singular noun: every day, each child

How many? How much?

quantifiers

some positive	*some eggs, some milk*
any questions, negatives	*any eggs? no milk*
many / much countable / uncountable	*many sheep, much rain*
a few / a little some (positive)	*a few apples, a little salt*
few / little not many, not much (negative)	*few people came*
a lot of both, informal	*a lot of work*
enough as much as needed	*enough hay*
no not any	*no time left*

a few = some (good!); few = not many (not good)

Spanish speakers, watch out

- *Su* has five English forms: **his, her, its, their, your**. Ask: whose is it?
- Body parts take a possessive: *I washed **my** hands* (*me lavé las manos*).
- *Es profesora* = She is **a** teacher: don't forget *a* with jobs.
- *Toda la mañana* = **all** morning / **the whole** morning, not *all the morning*.

Want more?

Sophia explains pronouns in **In Her Place** (Lesson 8), articles and determiners in **A Box, The Box, No Box At All** (Lesson 21), and relative pronouns in **Which Is Essential, and Which Isn't** (Lesson 24).

See also Grammar Guides 1: **Nouns**.

© Trivium Home School · triviumhomeschool.com