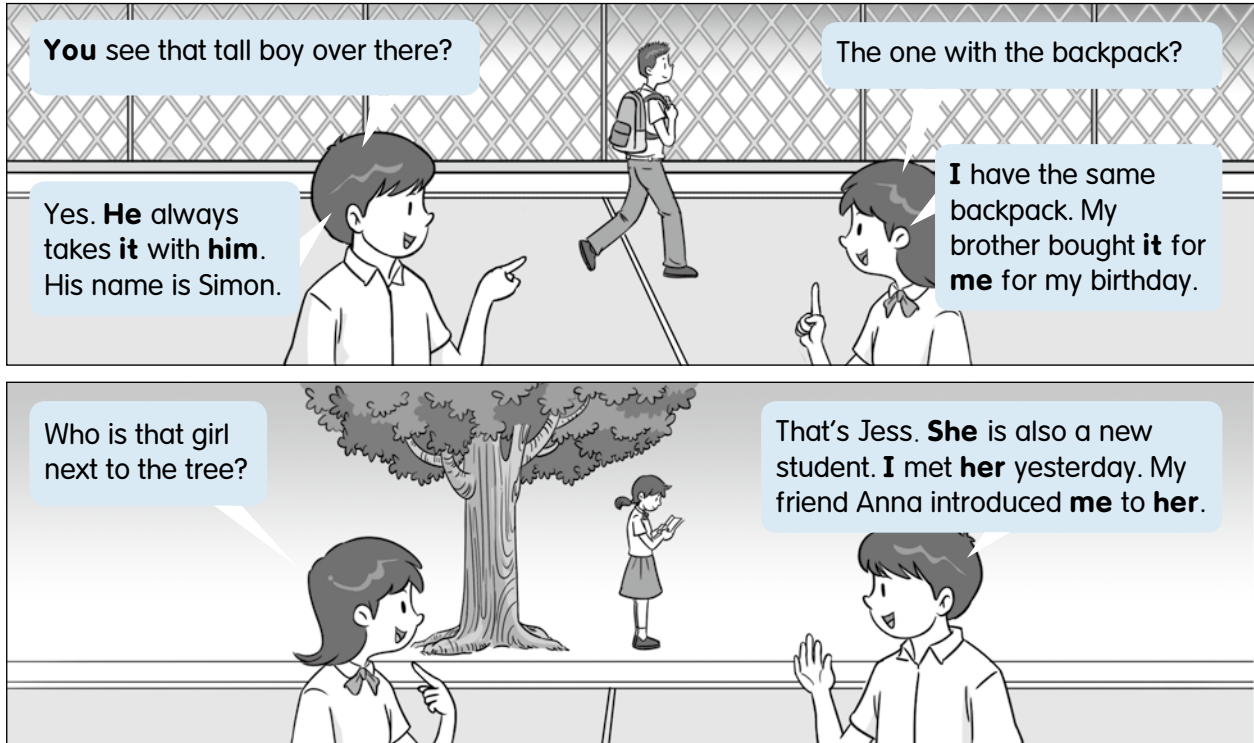


1 Pronouns

It is lunchtime. Jane is a new student. **She** is with David in the playground. **He** is telling **her** about some of the students.



We use **pronouns** to replace nouns so that we do not need to repeat the nouns. Pronouns usually refer to someone/something that has already been mentioned.

Frank is my new friend. ^{He} Frank comes from Canada and I met ^{him} Frank last week.

↓

Frank is my new friend. **He** comes from Canada and I met **him** last week.

Usage

Subject pronouns

Subject pronouns are the subject (S) of a sentence and are followed by a verb (V).

Mr and Mrs Lam are doctors. **They** are very rich.

S V

Alex: When did **the film** start?

Sue: **It** started ten minutes ago.

S V



	Subject pronoun	Object pronoun
Singular	I	me
	you	you
	he	him
	she	her
	it	it
Plural	we	us
	you	you
	they	them

Object pronouns

Object pronouns are the object (O) of a sentence. They can be:

- a direct object. It usually follows a verb.

Michael : I thought you lost **those books**.

Jessica : So did I, but I **found them** under the table.

Our class is noisy. Miss Cheung **told us** to keep quiet.



- an indirect object. It often follows a preposition (Prep).

Paul gave a new watch **to me** last Christmas.

This is **Kate's** backpack. I borrowed it **from her**.



NOTE

In the case of indirect objects, sometimes the word order is changed and the preposition is omitted.

It was Kelly's birthday so Henry bought **a new bike for her**.

It was Kelly's birthday so Henry bought **her a new bike**.

We also use the pronoun *it* to refer to things like time, dates, the weather and distance.

Ellen : What **time** is **it**?

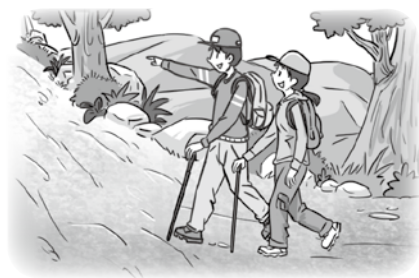
Joseph : **It** is half past three.

Mike : What **is** the **date** today?

Sophia : **It** is the second of June.

Calvin : **It** is cool today.

Joan : Yes, **it** is great weather for hiking.



Exam Report

In the Secondary 3 TSA writing tasks as well as in Paper 2 of the HKDSE exam, some students used pronouns incorrectly or inconsistently. This affected the coherence of their writing.

2013 S3 TSA Writing

^{them}
We went to the airport to see they.

✗ A subject pronoun was used after the verb instead of an object pronoun.

2012 HKDSE Paper 2 Part B Question 8

^{They are}
Friendships are like diamonds. It is very strong.

✗ Both *friendships* and *diamonds* are plural so the pronoun has to be plural too.

2012 HKDSE Paper 2 Part B Question 9

^{you}
Some of you may even consider sleeping not valuable. However they are wrong.

✗ The wrong subject pronoun was used.

 Do the Quiz below. Check your understanding of pronouns.

Quiz

Tick (✓) the correct answers.

- John and Mavis are both good tennis players. _____ several times a week.
 A. They play B. He plays
- Grace is so lucky. Her parents bought _____ a new laptop for her birthday.
 A. her B. him
- The film was exciting but it lasted two and a half hours. _____ a bit long.
 A. They were B. It was
- I would love to read that book. Could you lend it to _____ please?
 A. me B. I
- My cousins from Australia are visiting. Come round and meet _____.
 A. her B. them
- There is a programme on TV tonight about Africa. Are you planning to watch _____?
 A. them B. it
- Have you seen my blue sweater? I cannot find _____.
 A. me B. it

Exercise 1

Complete the sentences by choosing one of the options in brackets.

- The short boy is Donald. He (He / She) is from England.
- That is Mary with the glasses. _____ (He / She) is American.
- Look at Mark's new shoes. _____ (It / He) bought them last week.
- Do you know Lucy and James? _____ (We / They) are cousins.
- Look at Sally's green dress. _____ (She / It) was a birthday present.
- The boy with long hair is Raymond. _____ (He lives / They live) in Kennedy Town.
- Jack's glasses look strange. _____ (It is / They are) too big for him.
- Bob : Where do you live, Kelly?
Kelly: _____ (I / You) live in Sha Tin.

Exercise 2

Complete the sentences by choosing one of the options in brackets.

- Phillip : I think I saw you (her / you) last night in Central.
Aunt May: Yes. I was doing some shopping.
- That is a nice shirt. Where did you get _____ (them / it)?
- Pat and I are going to the café. Why don't you join _____ (them / us)?
- Sam: My uncle gave _____ (me / him) a hundred dollars this morning.
Ken : What are you planning to buy?
- I cannot come to the party. My brother is sick so I have to look after _____ (him / her).
- Nice meeting you. I will see _____ (me / you) again tomorrow.
- Peter: John, do you know Sally?
John : Yes, I met _____ (them / her) last week.
- Oh no! Look at my new trousers. I just spilled coffee on _____ (them / it).



Exercise 3

Some of the underlined pronouns in these sentences are wrong. Write the correct answer in the space on the right when necessary. If the underlined pronoun is correct, put a tick (✓) in the space.

- Tom is a good swimmer. I watched her in a race yesterday. him
- Doris is another good swimmer. She won two races. _____
- Rachel, you are hitting the ball too hard. Try and hit her more gently. _____
- Jeff and Charles spend all their time playing computer games.
He have no time for homework. _____
- Susan is a good tennis player but I beat her yesterday. _____
- I really like hiking but I do not do them in the summer. It is too hot. _____
- I went hiking with David on Saturday and we got lost. _____
- Grace cooked dinner for I last night. It was delicious. _____

Exercise 4

Complete the sentences using the correct pronouns.

- Paul likes parties. Why don't you invite him? He will enjoy it.
- I think we have met before. Were _____ a student in London last year?
- Can you help _____ with this maths problem? I am not good at maths.
- Where are my new shoes? I cannot find _____ anywhere.
- When you see Susan, can you tell _____ that we are meeting at 7 pm? Last week she arrived late.
- There are three bridges across the river and _____ are all over 400 years old.
- If we are not there on time, can you wait for _____ please?
- Cindy: What time does the bus arrive?
Ben : I think _____ arrives at 6:30 pm.



Exercise 5

Read the conversation. Fill in the blanks using the correct pronouns.

I just had a wonderful holiday with my family.

(2) _____ had a week in Thailand.

(3) _____ was great. Warm and sunny the whole time although one day

(4) _____ rained.

Lots. This is my sister Jill. (5) _____ is eating a papaya. And how about this one?

Do you like my swimming trunks? I bought

(6) _____ in Phuket.

That's my brother James. We buried

(8) _____ in the sand up to his neck.

And this is the Chen family.

(9) _____ are also from Hong Kong.

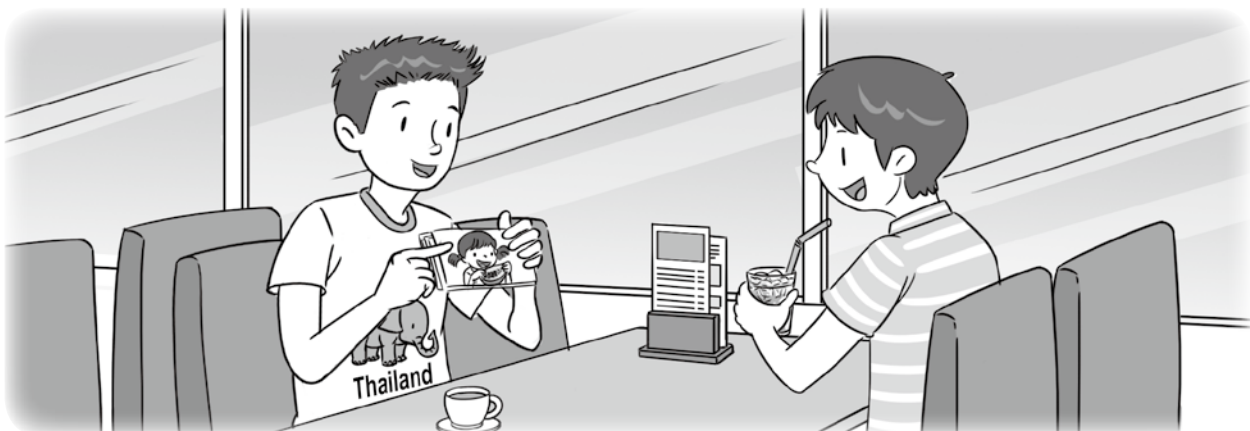
We met (10) _____ in Phuket.

Where did (1) you go?

How was the weather?

Do you have any photos?

Yes. (7) _____ are very nice. Who's that in this photo?



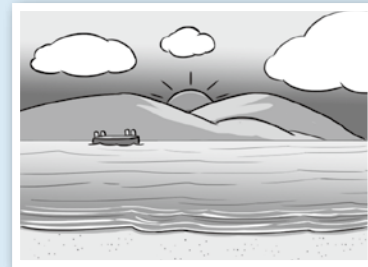
Exercise 6

Read the diary entry. Choose the best option to complete each blank and circle the correct letter.

cloudy

28 July 20XX

Last Saturday I went with some friends to the beach for the day. I prepared a nice lunch box but then left (1) on the table. There were four of (2) in the group and we went to the beach by bus. It was really hot so first thing (3) all went for a swim. It was so refreshing! We then played volleyball, but after ten minutes Jane and Sarah said it was too hot for (4) to play. Eric and (5) continued for another twenty minutes. I am not good at volleyball so Eric beat (6) easily. Around lunchtime it became very cloudy and humid. Eric suggested going to a café before it started raining. We all followed (7) to a place he knew, but (8) was full. Sarah said (9) knew another place so we went there instead. As soon as we got there it started pouring with rain. We had pasta and (10) was delicious! We stayed there an hour and it stopped raining. We then went back to the beach, stopping at a shop so Jane could buy a hat. It really suited (11). We spent the rest of the day on the beach and then watched the sunset.



- 1. A. them
- (B.) it
- C. me
- 4. A. me
- B. it
- C. them
- 7. A. him
- B. us
- C. he
- 10. A. he
- B. it
- C. they

- 2. A. them
- B. you
- C. us
- 5. A. he
- B. him
- C. I
- 8. A. he
- B. it
- C. we
- 11. A. she
- B. them
- C. her

- 3. A. we
- B. I
- C. us
- 6. A. I
- B. me
- C. him
- 9. A. she
- B. her
- C. me

Wrap-up

— A text type in HKDSE Paper 2

Read the following description. Fill in the blanks using the correct pronouns.

Peter and Joan are good friends. (1) They have known each other since they were in kindergarten together. Joan is very tall and Peter is quite short. Peter says (2) _____ gets a pain in his neck because he always has to look up at (3) _____ when they speak. Joan is also very slim whereas Peter is a bit fat. Joan always tells (4) _____ that he eats too many noodles. Peter loves noodles. (5) _____ are his favourite food.

Joan has very long hair. Peter, on the other hand, keeps his hair very short. Joan is good at sports. (6) _____ is the best runner in our school and also plays on the tennis team. Peter is not very keen on sports and sometimes says to Joan, 'Why do (7) _____ like running? You get all hot and sweaty and it's boring as well.' 'Exercise is good for you and everyone should exercise at least three times a week,' replies Joan.

Peter and Joan are my good friends. We have known each other for ten years. They are good students and both of (8) _____ are very good at English. (9) _____ am also good at English, but Peter and Joan are better than (10) _____.

The three of (11) _____ are all members of the school's English Club. (12) _____ sometimes speak English when we are together. Other students think we are strange, but we like English and think it is a good idea to practise (13) _____.



You try Write a short description of your best friend. Write about 100 words.

Hint: In a description you can talk about a person's appearance, character, likes and dislikes. Use appropriate pronouns when you refer to him or her.

..... = Useful expressions for the 'You try' section