

Briefing 2 -Pronouns

1. The commonest pronouns

You need to know the declension of the commonest pronouns.

These are:

the personal pronouns **ego** (*I*), **tu** (*you sing.*) **is** (*he, also*) **sē** or **sēsē** (*himself or themselves*), **nōs** (*we*), **vōs** (*you pl.*) and **eī** (*they*), the demonstrative pronouns **is** (*that, he, she, it*), **hic** (*this*) and **ille** and **iste** (*that*), the relative pronoun **quī** (*who or which*), the interrogative pronoun **quis?** (*who? or which?*), and also **īdem** (*same*), **ipse** (*self*).

2. Personal pronouns

There are three Persons

First: The person speaking: *I* or *we*

Second: The person spoken to: *you* (singular) or *you* (plural)

Third: The person spoken of: *he, she, it, they*

	SINGULAR				SINGULAR or PLURAL	
	1st Person		2nd person		3rd person	(reflexive)
nom	ego	<i>I</i>	tū	<i>you(sing)</i>		
acc	mē	<i>me</i>	tē	<i>you</i>	sē or sēsē	<i>himself/themselves</i>
gen	mēī	<i>of me</i>	tuī	<i>of you</i>	suī	<i>of himself/themselves</i>
dat	mihi	<i>to me</i>	tibi	<i>to you</i>	sibi	<i>to himself/themselves</i>
abl	mē	<i>(from) me</i>	tē	<i>(from) you</i>	sē or sēsē	<i>from himself/themselves.</i>
	PLURAL					
nom	nōs	<i>we</i>	vōs	<i>you</i>		
acc	nōs	<i>us</i>	vōs	<i>you</i>		
gen	nostrī or nostrum	<i>of us</i>	vestrī or vestrum	<i>of you</i>		
dat	nōbīs	<i>to us</i>	vōbīs	<i>to you</i>		
abl	nōbīs	<i>(from) us</i>	vōbīs	<i>(from) you</i>		

3. Demonstrative pronouns (point at people or things)

is – *that* or *he/she/it*

	SINGULAR			PLURAL		
	masc	fem	neut	masc	fem	neut
nom	is	ea	id	eī	eae	ea
acc	eum	eam	id	eōs	eās	eōs
gen		eius (all genders)		eōrum	eārum	eōrum
dat		eī (all genders)			eīs (all genders)	
abl	eō	eā	eō		eīs (all genders)	

hic – *this* (near me) or *he/she/it*

	SINGULAR			PLURAL		
	masc	fem	neut	masc	fem	neut
nom	hic	haec	hoc	hī	hae	haec
acc	hunc	hanc	hoc	hōs	hās	haec
gen		huius (all genders)		hōrum	hārum	hōrum
dat		huī (all genders)			hīs (all genders)	
abl	hōc	hāc	hōc		hīs (all genders)	

ille – that (over there) or he/she/it

	SINGULAR			PLURAL		
	masc	fem	neut	masc	fem	neut
nom	ille	illa	illud	illī	illae	illa
acc	illum	illam	illud	illōs	illās	illa
gen		illius (all genders)		illōrum	illārum	illōrum
dat		illī (all genders)		illis (all genders)		
abl	illō	illā	illō	illis (all genders)		

iste – that (over there) or he/she/it (often derogatory) declines like **ille**.

The reflexive pronoun **ipse** is similar:

ipse – self

	SINGULAR			PLURAL		
	masc	fem	neut	masc	fem	neut
nom	ipse	ipsa	ipsum	ipsī	ipsae	ipsa
acc	ipsum	ipsam	ipsum	ipsōs	ipsās	ipsa
gen		ipsīus (all genders)		ipsōrum	ipsārum	ipsōrum
dat		ipsī (all genders)		ipsis (all genders)		
abl	ipsō	ipsā	ipsō	ipsis (all genders)		

iste – that (over there) or he/she/it (often derogatory) declines like **ipse**.

Relative pronoun – quī – who, which (e.g. the lady **who** is speaking to me)

	SINGULAR			PLURAL		
	masc	fem	neut	masc	fem	neut
nom	quī	quae	quod	quī	quae	quae
acc	quem	quam	quod	quōs	quās	quae
gen		cuius (all genders)		quōrum	quārum	quōrum
dat		cui (all genders)		quibus or quīs (all genders)		
abl	quō	quā	quō	quibus or quīs (all genders)		

Interrogative pronoun – quis – who?, what (e.g. **Which** lady has a dog?)

	SINGULAR			PLURAL		
	masc	fem	neut	masc	fem	neut
nom	quis or quī	quis or quae	quid or quod	quī	quae	quae
acc	quem	quam	quid or quod	quōs	quās	quae

All other cases are exactly like **quī**, the relative pronoun.

To remember the difference between **quī** and **quis**, note that **quis** sounds like the English word ‘quiz’ in which people ask questions.

4. Possessive pronominal adjectives

Please also learn the possessive adjectives for the personal pronouns:

- **meus, mea, meum** etc.: *my*
- **tuus, tua, tuum** etc.: *your* (applies to a single person)
- **suus, sua, suum** etc.: *his* (applies ONLY to the subject for the sentence, singular or plural)
- **eius** (literally ‘of him’): *his* (applies in all other singular cases); does not decline
- **noster, nostra, nostrum** etc.: *our*
- **vester, vestra, vestrum** etc.: *your* (applies to persons, plural)
- **suus, sua, suum** etc.: *their* (applies ONLY to the subject for the sentence, singular or plural)
- **eōrum, eārum, eōrum** (literally ‘of them’ by gender): *their* (applies in all other plural cases)

meus, tuus, suus, noster and **vester** decline like regular 2nd/1st declension adjectives.

5. Other pronouns: genitive and dative singular

Note that **is**, **hic**, **ille**, **iste**, **ipse**, **quī** and **quis** all have **gen sing** in **-ius** and **dat sing** in **-ī** (or **-īc** for **hic**).

The **gen/dat** endings **-ius** and **-ī** apply to other pronominal adjectives, such as:

- **alius** – *other/another* (**gen sing: alius** – but **gen sing alterius** from **alter** may be used **instead**)
- **alter** – *one of two*
- **uter** – *either of two*
- **neuter** – *neither of two*
- **nūllus** – *none*
- **sōlus** – *sole*
- **ūllus** – *any*
- **ūnus** – *one*

These are fairly common, and you should be aware of them.

6. Compound pronouns

There are a number of ‘compound’ pronouns that have an inner component that is one of the pronouns already described. For example **īdem** derived from **īs** + **dem**

īdem – *same* often used with **quī** (the same one who ...)

	SINGULAR			PLURAL		
	masc	fem	neut	masc	fem	neut
nom	īdem	eadem	īdem	eīdem	eaedem	eadem
acc	eundem	eandem	īdem	eōsdem	eāsdem	eadem
gen	iusdem (all genders)			eōrundem	eārundem	eōrundem
dat	eīdem (all genders)			eīsdem (all genders)		
abl	eōdem	eādem	eōdem	eīsdem (all genders)		

There are a number of other compound se are the commonest (giving just the **masc/fem/neut** forms to show how the pronoun works):

quidam // or – *a certain person or thing* (like an indefinite article) – someone/something important but unidentified

	SINGULAR			PLURAL		
	masc	fem	neut	masc	fem	Neut
nom	quidam	quaedam	quiddam quoddam	quīdam	quaedam	quaedam
acc	quemdam	quamdam	quiddam quoddam	quōsdam	quāsdam	quaedam
gen	ciusdam (all genders)			quōrumdam	quārumdam	quōrumdam
dat	cuīdam (all genders)			quīsdam (all genders)		
abl	quōdam	quādam	quōdam	quīsdam (all genders)		

This is common. Also:

aliquis / **aliqua** / **aliquid** – *someone or something*

quisque / **quaeque** / **quidque** or **quodque** – *each one, taken at a time*

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