



Q what is a pronoun? X

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Define pronoun

In English, a pronoun is a word used to replace a noun when the context has already been defined.

Examples:

I got a new shirt. **It** has a hole!

I saw Alice at the store and got **his** autograph.

Where are **you** going?



Q what is international pronouns day? X

search

International Pronouns Day - GLSEN

<https://www.glsen.org/activity/international-pronouns-day>

International Pronouns Day happens each year on the third Wednesday of October. Referring to people by the pronouns they determine for themselves is basic to human dignity.

International Pronouns Day seeks to make respecting, sharing, and educating about personal pronouns commonplace.



1375: William and the Werewolf - Oxford English Dictionary

<https://www.oed.com/view/Entry/200700#eid18519864>

In 1375, the singular "they" is first used in the medieval romance novel *William and the Werewolf*.

They is a pronoun that can refer to one person or many people:

Alex sent me an email. I need to respond to **them**.

The students looked stressed during **their** exam today.

1660: George Fox and the Singular You - Fox's Epistle 191

<https://languageog.ldc.upenn.edu/nll/?p=2732>

In 1660, George Fox, the founder of Quakerism, wrote a book, *Fox's Epistle 191*, labeling anyone who used singular "you" an idiot or a fool

Singular (one person):

He **is** a fool

She **is** a fool

You **are** a fool

Plural (many people):

He and she **are** fools

We **are** fools



1858: Thon - Charles Crozat Converse

C. C. Converse, "A New Pronoun." *The Critic*, Aug. 2, 1884, p. 55

In 1858, Charles Crozat Converse proposes "thon", the contracted form of "that one". He makes the announcement in his letter to *The Critic* in 1884.

1903: Thon - Funk and Wagnalls Dictionary

Funk and Wagnalls dictionary recognizes "thon" in 1903.

thon. *Pronoun of the 3rd person, common gender, meaning "that one, he she, or it": a neoterism proposed by Charles Crozat Converse, and apparently complying with the neoteristic canons, since it supplies an antecedent blank, obeys a simple and obvious analogy, and is euphonious.*

Funk and Wagnalls, Supplement to A Standard Dictionary of the English Language, 1903

1943: Thon - Merriam Webster Dictionary

Merriam Webster dictionary recognizes "thon" in 1943.

Brit. physicist.] See ATOMIC THEORY.
thon (thŏn), *pron. sing. & pl.; nom. THON; poss. THON'S* (thŏnz); *obj. THON.* [Contr. of *that one.*] A proposed genderless pronoun of the third person.
thon (thŏn), *pron. & adj.* That yonder. *Scot., N. of Eng., & Ir.*
thon (thŏn). Var. of THEN. *Obs. exc. Dial.*
thon'der (thŏn'dĕr), *adv. & adj.* Yonder. *Chiefly Scot. & N. of Eng.*

1943: Thon - New York Times

<https://www.nytimes.com/1955/10/02/archives/he-she-and-thon.html>

In 1955, New York Times releases an article *He, She, and Thon* calling the phrase "he or she" clumsy



1991: Solving The Great Pronoun Problem - Kelly Ann Sippell

Sippell, K. A. *Solving the Great Pronoun Problem: The Acceptability of the Singular "They."* UMI, 1993, <https://books.google.com/books?id=xtu8nQEACAAJ>.

Kelly Ann Sippell writes her master's thesis *Solving the Great Pronoun Problem* where she listed over 80 proposed gender neutral pronouns proposed over the prior 150 years

1994: Merriam Webster's Dictionary

"We must remember that the English pronoun system is not fixed. Several centuries ago the objective plural you drove the nominative and objective singulars thou and thee and the nominative plural ye out of general use. It appears to have happened for social reasons, not linguistic reasons. They, their, them have been used continuously for six centuries, and have been disparaged in such use for about two centuries."

[Merriam Webster's Dictionary of English Usage](#)



Q what is CCI's DEI Council?



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Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council - Drexel CCI

<https://drexel.edu/cci/about/diversity-equity-and-inclusion-council/>

CCI's Diversity in Tech Steering Committee and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Council is committed to building an environment of open communication and mutual respect for all members of the CCI community.



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