

SMART PANEL NOTES: PRONOUNS

Target Exams: Indian Airforce (Group X & Y) | Maharashtra Forest Guard
Module Focus: Error Spotting, Fill-in-the-Blanks, and Sentence Improvement

PANEL 1: Pronoun Essentials (Quick Recap)

A pronoun is a word used in place of a noun to avoid repetition.

Type	What it is	Exam Examples
Personal	Represents specific people or things.	I, we, you, he, she, it, they
Relative	Connects a clause/phrase to a noun.	Who, whom, whose, which, that
Reflexive	Reflects the action back to the subject.	Myself, yourself, himself, themselves
Demonstrative	Points to specific things.	This, that, these, those
Indefinite	Refers to non-specific people/things.	Everyone, somebody, all, few, none

PANEL 2: The "231 & 123" Sequence Rule (High Yield)

When all three persons (First - I/We, Second - You, Third - He/She/It/They) come together in a single sentence, you must follow a specific order.

A. The 231 Rule (Normal / Positive Sentences)

Order: Second Person (2) → Third Person (3) → First Person (1)

-  **Incorrect:** I, you and he are good friends.
-  **Correct:** You, he and I are good friends.

B. The 123 Rule (Negative / Confession / Plural)

Order: First Person (1) → Second Person (2) → Third Person (3)

(Use this when accepting a mistake, apologizing, or when all pronouns are plural like We, You, They).

-  **Incorrect:** You, he and I are responsible for this loss.
-  **Correct:** I, you and he are responsible for this loss.

PANEL 3: The Case Trap (Subjective vs. Objective)

Examiners love testing when to use "I" vs. "Me", or "He" vs. "Him".

Golden Rule: Always use the **Objective Case** (me, him, her, us, them) after the words **Let, Like, Between, Except, and all Prepositions**.

-  **Incorrect:** Let he and I do this work.
-  **Correct:** Let **him** and **me** do this work.
-  **Incorrect:** There is no problem between you and I.
-  **Correct:** There is no problem between you and **me**.
-  **Incorrect:** Everyone attended the party except he.
-  **Correct:** Everyone attended the party except **him**.

PANEL 4: Relative Pronouns (Who vs. Which vs. That)

Pronoun	Usage Rule	Example
Who	Used for People (Acts as the Subject).	The boy who is standing there is my brother.
Whom	Used for People (Acts as the Object).	The man whom I met yesterday is a doctor.
Which	Used for Animals & Non-living things .	The dog which bit me is mad.
Whose	Shows Possession (Living or Non-living).	The girl whose father is a teacher is smart.

Smart Tip for "That": Always use **"That"** (instead of who/which) after words like: *All, Same, Any, None, Nothing, Only*, and after **Superlative Degrees** (e.g., *best, tallest*).

- **Correct:** This is the best book **that** I have ever read.
- **Correct:** All **that** glitters is not gold.

PANEL 5: The Reflexive Pronoun Triggers

Certain verbs **must** be followed by a reflexive pronoun (myself, himself, themselves) if there is no direct object in the sentence.

High-Frequency Verbs: Enjoy, Avail, Pride, Absent, Present, Resign, Apply, Acquit.

-  **Incorrect:** He absented from the class.
-  **Correct:** He absented **himself** from the class.
-  **Incorrect:** We enjoyed at the party.
-  **Correct:** We enjoyed **ourselves** at the party.
-  **Incorrect:** You should avail of this opportunity.
-  **Correct:** You should avail **yourself** of this opportunity.

PANEL 6: Indefinite Pronouns (Singular Focus)

Words like **Each**, **Every**, **Either**, **Neither**, **Everyone**, **Anybody**, **Someone**, and **Nobody** are strictly singular.

- **Rule:** They must take a **Singular Verb** and a **Singular Possessive Pronoun** (his/her, NOT their).
-  **Incorrect:** Everyone must bring *their* own bag.
-  **Correct:** Everyone must bring **his** own bag.
-  **Incorrect:** Each of the boys *have* done *their* homework.
-  **Correct:** Each of the boys **has** done **his** homework.

Smart Tip: In expressions like "Each of the...", the noun will be plural (boys), but the verb and pronoun will always remain singular (has, his).