



Personal Pronouns in Languages Around the World

KS3 MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Ages 11-14 ⌚ 3 min read

What Are Pronouns?

Pronouns are words we use to talk about people without saying their names every time. Instead of saying "Sarah is happy," we say "She is happy." The most basic pronouns are **I** (yourself), **you** (the other person), **he** (a boy or man), and **she** (a girl or woman). These four pronouns are the first words you need to learn in any new language because you'll use them all the time.

Spanish Pronouns

In **Spanish**, these pronouns are **yo** (I), **tú** (you — informal), **él** (he), and **ella** (she). Spanish speakers have two ways to say "you": **tú** for friends and family, and **usted** for people you don't know well or respect. This shows that different languages have different ways of being polite.

Think of it like how you might say "Hi" to your best friend but "Hello" to your grandpa — languages do the same thing with pronouns.

French Pronouns

In **French**, these pronouns are **je** (I), **tu** (you — informal), **il** (he), and **elle** (she). Like Spanish, French also has a formal "you" called **vous**. French speakers care a lot about being polite, so they use **vous** with strangers and authority figures.

German Pronouns

In **German**, the pronouns are **ich** (I), **du** (you — informal), **er** (he), and **sie** (she). German also has **Sie** (formal you), which is always written with a capital letter to show respect. Even more interesting, German has a third "you" called **ihr** for talking to a group of friends.

Think of it like having different uniforms for different situations — you dress differently for school, the beach, or a party, and languages change their pronouns the

same way.

Other Languages

Italian uses **io, tu, lui, lei**. **Portuguese** uses **eu, tu, ele, ela**. **Japanese** is completely different — it uses **watashi** (I), **anata** (you), **kare** (he), and **kanojo** (she). The cool thing is that **Japanese** people often skip pronouns entirely because context makes it clear who they're talking about.

Why Does This Matter?

Learning pronouns first makes everything else easier. Once you know how to say I, you, he, and she, you can start making sentences in any language. Pronouns are like the skeleton of communication — everything else hangs on them. So the next time you learn a new language, start with these four words, and you're already on your way to speaking it.