

The pronoun 'it' is used in the following ways:

(A) For things without life, for animals and for young children.

e.g. For things → I read a story book. It was interesting.

For animal → The elephant has a long trunk. Its tusk is made of ivory.

For young children → The baby laughs a lot. It seems to be very happy.



(B) In sentences referring to –

Time : It is 12 o'clock. It is Monday.

Weather : It is sunny.

Temperature : It is 40° centigrade.

Distance : It is 40 kilometres.

Situation (present) : It is a shameful act.

(C) To give emphasis to the noun or pronoun that follows.

e.g. It was I who organised the party.

Compare the following:

Column A

Column B

(1) Which pencil is dark?

(1) Which of these pencils is dark?

(2) Whose book is this?

(2) Whose is the book?

In column A the words **which** and **whose** are asking questions about the nouns **pencil** and **book** respectively. These words are trying to **describe** the noun. Hence they are **interrogative adjectives**.

In column B the emphasis of asking a question is on the words **which** and **whose**. They stand for the nouns **pencil** and **book** respectively. Thus they are **pronouns**.

The pronoun which stands for a noun while asking a question is called an Interrogative Pronoun.

Kinds of interrogative pronouns are as follows:

Who, what, which, whom and whose.

(1) **Who** is used for persons only.

e.g. Who performed the show?

(2) **Which** is used with inanimate things, for a person and an animal.

e.g. (i) Which dog will harm us?

(ii) Which girl did we meet?

(3) **What** is used for things only.

e.g. What is there in the bag?

1. Pick out the correct interrogative pronoun and fill in the blanks:

(1) Who missed the train? (who, which, what)

(2) Which of these dramas are yours? (who, which, what)

(3) By whom were you appointed? (who, whom, which)

(4) Who is taking your responsibility? (who, whom, which)

(5) Which is she? (which, what)

(6) Who is the lender who lent you money? (who, which, what)

(7) What have you done? (whom, what)

(8) Which is better, wisdom or wealth? (who, which, what)

2.  **Underline the pronouns and state their kinds:**

(1) She kicked herself in the fight.

Personal, reflexive

(2) Which of these is correct?

interrogative

(3) Who is taking us for a movie?

interrogative, personal

(4) He himself left the job.

personal, emphatic

(5) They themselves went for a movie.

personal, emphatic

(6) I had no intentions of hurting myself.

personal, reflexive

(7) What are you thinking these days?

interrogative, personal