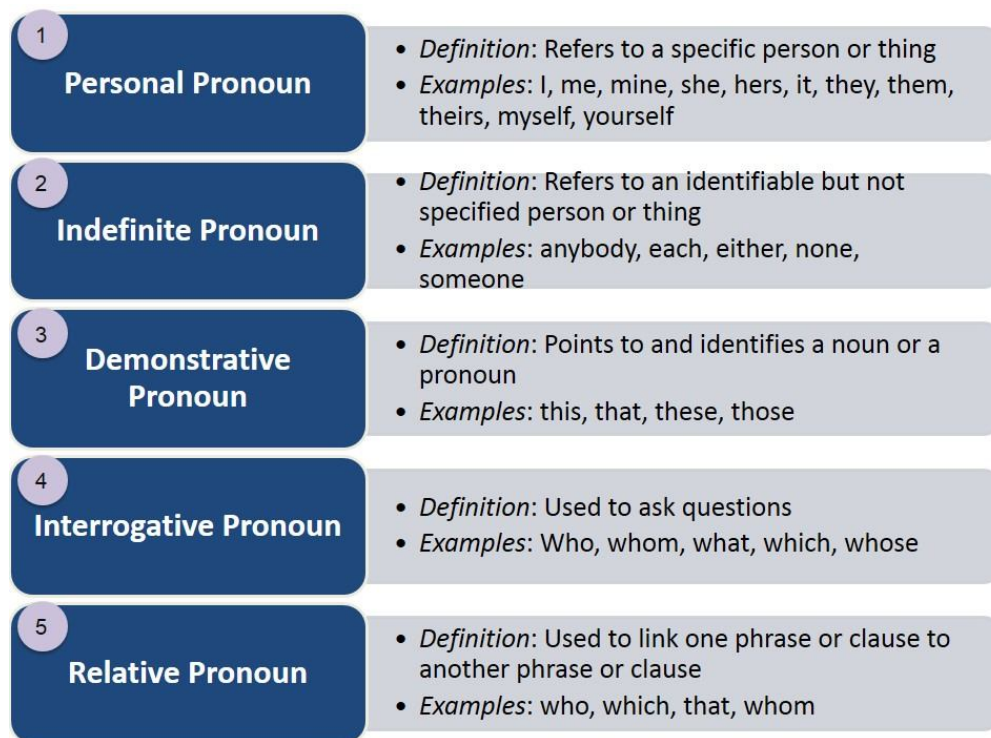


**Types of pronouns:** Figure 3 below depicts the various types of pronouns:



**Figure 3: Classification of pronouns**

## 5. Relative pronouns

*Relative pronouns* are the most important type of pronoun, from a GMAT perspective. *Relative pronouns* are used to *link one phrase or clause* to another *phrase or clause* (*phrases* and *clauses* are covered in detail in section 2.2.1). The most prominent relative pronouns are: *who, which, that, whom, when and where*. The compounds *whoever, whomever, and whichever* are also relative pronouns. Examples:

The candidate **who** wins the greatest popular vote is not always elected.

The crate, **which** was left in the corridor, has now been moved into the storage closet.

A relative pronoun *relates to* (refers to) noun that appears prior to it in the sentence, to resolve its reference. Example:

The car *that is parked in the basement* is mine.

– Relative pronoun *that* in the above sentence refers to noun *car* to resolve its reference.

Spielberg's new movie, *which was just released last week*, is a big hit.

– Relative pronoun *which* in the above sentence refers to noun *movie* to resolve its reference.

My father-in-law, *who is a renowned lawyer*, loathes formal education.

– Relative pronoun *who* in the above sentence refers to noun *father-in-law* to resolve its reference.

**Note:** Closely linked to relative pronouns, is the concept of *relative clauses*, which we discuss in section 2.2.3.

## Limitations of how “relative pronouns” can be used

	Who/whom	Which/that	Where	When	Whose
<b>Person</b>	√				√
<b>Place</b>		√	√		√
<b>Thing</b>		√			√
<b>Idea</b>		√			√
<b>Time</b>				√	

In Figure 3 above on *classification of pronouns*, pronouns such as *who* and *which* appear both as *interrogative* and *relative* pronoun. It is easy to distinguish between these, based upon the usage.

*The person who has a beard, is the President.*

– Relative pronoun *who* relates to (refers to) the noun *person*.

*Who is the President of the party?*

– Interrogative pronoun (asks question).

*This car, which has been with us for twelve years, has never given us any trouble.*

– Relative pronoun *which* relates to (refers to) the noun *car*.

*Which car has witnessed the highest growth in sales over the last year?*

– Interrogative pronoun (asks question).