### Pronouns

**Personal Pronouns: Suffix Pronouns**

A suffix pronoun is attached to the very end of a word (nothing can come after it), and it is marked in transliteration with a dot. The various cases\(^1\) are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender and Number</th>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1S common gender</td>
<td>.i</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="i" /> or suppressed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2MS</td>
<td>.k</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="k" /></td>
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<tr>
<td>2FS</td>
<td>.t or .t</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="t" /></td>
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<tr>
<td>3MS</td>
<td>.f</td>
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<td>3FS</td>
<td>.s</td>
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<tr>
<td>1PL</td>
<td>.n</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="n" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2PL</td>
<td>.tn or .tn</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>“one” (impersonal)</td>
<td>.tw</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="tw" /></td>
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Suffix pronouns can be attached to different kind of words and have different grammatical functions:

1. Possessor in a direct genitival construction following a noun A: A.f “his A,” lit. “A of his,” and also “A of him;”\(^3\)

2. Object of a preposition: ![hn](image) “with him,” ![r.i](image) “against me;”

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1 Certain suffix pronouns are characteristic to some dynastic era. In some texts the scribe replaced  by \(\) as a space saving device.
2 Depending on whom the suffix pronoun refers to.
3 For example, A=“fear, love, memory,” etc.
3. Subject attached to a particle or introductory word: iw.f “He...,” r.f “so,” lit. “with respect to it,” h.f.n.i “Then I...,” wn.in.sn “Then they...” with the biliteral wn;

4. Subject/object of an infinitive: sdm.f “his hearing” or “hearing him;”

5. Subject of various verb forms: sdm.f “he listens, “he will listen,” sdm.n.f “he listened,” etc.

Examples for noun + possessor:

zA.i “my son”5 [Semna Stela 2, 18] with the biliteral zA “son,” where the first seated man is a determinative and the second is the suffix pronoun .i;

hm.i “my majesty” [Neferti 7] and in the next line of the same text hm.f “his majesty;”

snwi.k “your two brothers”6 [Urk. IV, 618, 2], and a few lines later in the same text snti.k “your two sisters”7 [Urk. IV, 618, 5];

shrw.f “his plans” [Kanais B, 13];

snd.f “his fear” and also “the fear of him” [Khetty Stela 2, 7] with the triliteral snd;

st.s “its place” [Neferti 68] (referring to Maat);

mn’t nt ib.f “nurse of his heart” [Khu-Sobek Stela 5, 2].

inwi.fi “his eyebrows” [ShS. 65], with the biliteral in, where the suffix pronoun after a dual has an extra i ending (occasionally found in duals).

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4 In Middle Egyptian the default verb is sdm “hear.”

5 Since the 1MS pronoun can be omitted, can also be read as ẓwi(.i) “my two sons” or even as a dual ẓwil “two sons.” The context almost always tells the correct meaning.

6 Horus and Seth.

7 Isis and Nephthis.

8 See T. Eric Peet, The Stela of Sebek-khu, Manchester Museum Handbooks 75 (1914).
Similarly, \textit{\textup{\textup{\texttt{\textup{\texttt{wi.ki}}}}}} “your two arms”\textsuperscript{9}

\textit{\textup{\texttt{\textup{\texttt{wi.si}}}}} “her arms;”

\textit{\textup{\texttt{\textup{\texttt{hr snnw.si}}}}} “second time,” lit. “upon its second” [Urk. IV, 4, 9], where \textit{\textup{\texttt{hr}}} is the preposition “on” and \textit{\textup{\texttt{snnw}}} is the cardinal number “second;”

\textit{\textup{\texttt{ity nb.n}}} “sovereign, our lord” [Neferti 9] (apposition);

\textit{\textup{\texttt{zA.tn}}} “(a) son of yours” [Neferti 6];

\textit{\texttt{hwt.sn}} “their bellies” [Neferti 8].

Examples for \textbf{preposition + object}:

\textit{\texttt{im.s}}\textsuperscript{10} “in it” [ShS. 38, 120] (referring to a (feminine) boat);

\textit{\texttt{im.f}} “from it” [Neferti 20] (referring to originating from the land), and a few lines later

the feminine \textit{\texttt{hr.s}} “from it” [Neferti 44];

\textit{\texttt{hn*.sn}} “with them” [ShS. 122];

\textit{\texttt{k3.k hnr.k}} “your ka (is) with you” [Nebankh Stela 4];

\textit{\texttt{n.sn}} “to them” [Neferti 5];

\textit{\texttt{hr.i}} “for (lit. under) me” [Kanais B, 7] (spoken by Sety I) with the biliteral \textit{\texttt{hr}}.

More complex examples:

\textit{\texttt{z3.i ndti.i}} “my son, my protector/avenger” (Amun Re speaks to Thuthmose III) [Urk. IV, 611, 17] (apposition) with the spindle biliteral \textit{\texttt{nd}} often used with the \textit{\texttt{nwpot}}.

\textit{\texttt{ib.i m snw.i}} “my heart as my (only) companion” [ShS. 42], where \textit{\texttt{snw}} stands for \textit{\texttt{snnw}}, the ordinal number “second,” and the seated man determinative converts this to a noun “companion,” lit. “second one.”

\textsuperscript{9} See G. A. Gaballa, JEA, 63 (1977), Plate XXIIA.

\textsuperscript{10} The preposition \textit{\texttt{hr}} alone cannot receive a suffix pronoun.
“seal of his heart (and) equal\textsuperscript{11} of his heart”

[Khetty Stela 2, 6-7] (apposition of two direct genitives) with the ideogram \( htm \) “seal.”

“So, listen to me!” [ShS. 12] with imperative of the verb \( sdm \). The preposition \( r \) lit. “with respect to” with the attached 2MS suffix pronoun acts as the particle \( r.k \) and it can be translated by “so.”

“So, I will relate to you” [ShS. 21-22] with the verb \( sdd \) “relate, tell” in prospective/subjunctive \( sdm.f \).\textsuperscript{12}

“one makes arrows” [Neferti 40] with the impersonal suffix pronoun \( tw \) attached to the very common introductory particle \( iw \). The verb form of \( iri \) “make” (spelled with the biliteral \( ir \)) is infinitive, lit. “one to make arrows.”

“I have made” [Nebwaui Stela 1, 3]\textsuperscript{13} and in line 10 of the same stela \( dd.n.i \) “I have said.” The seated man is replaced by the reed leaf to save space; see footnote 1 above.

“one lives in the necropolis/cemetery” [Neferti 55].

The noun \( ds \) “self” with an attached suffix pronoun is used as a reflexive pronoun:

“you yourselves”[Kanais B, 13];

\( wi.i \) \( ds.i \) my own (two) arms [Urk. IV, 612, 13];

\( hrw \) \( ds.f \) Horus himself [Itrysen Stella 6];

“Speak your own (words)!” [Kanais B 13]. \( dd \) “speak” is imperative and the plural strokes indicate that the exclamation is addressed to several persons (actually gods). There occurs here an interesting use of \( ds.tn \) with literal meaning: you yourselves. Since the pharaoh asks the gods to speak, it means: your own (words).

\textsuperscript{11} Lit. “second end.”

\textsuperscript{12} One of the six \( sdm.f \) verb forms. In Standard Theory it is called prospective \( sdm.f \) and in Allen’s terminology it is the subjunctive \( sdm.f \).


\textsuperscript{14} For the nisbe construction \( hr(i)-ntr \), see Adjectives.
Personal Pronouns: Dependent (Enclitic) Pronouns

The dependent pronouns can stand by themselves as separate words but they depend on a word that they follow. (Consequently, they are never the first word of a sentence.) The various cases are as follows:

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</table>

The dependent pronouns have different grammatical functions:

1. Second and third person subjects of adjectival sentences;\(^{15}\)
2. In adjectival sentences of possession *ni* AB\(^{16}\) with A a dependent pronoun:
   “A belongs to B;”
3. Subjects of adverbial sentences (after certain introductory particles such as *m.k, nn, ist* etc.);
4. Subject of imperatives (if expressed);

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\(^{15}\) See Adjectival Sentences.
\(^{16}\) See Adjectival Sentences.
5. Objects of various transitive verb forms.

Examples for **adjectival predicate + subject**:

- nfr st “it was good.” [Pr. II, 6];
- dśr sn “they will be red” (like a firebrand, a pharaoh’s threat) [Kanais C, 12].

Examples for **imperative + subject**:

- mr wi “love/take pity on me!” [Neferti 45];
- i f tw “Wash yourself!” [ShS. 13];
- in n.i sw “Bring him to me!” [Neferti 11] with the bilateral in, and the dative n.i “to me” in forward position;
- zAw tn “you beware” [Kanais C, 4].

Examples for **verb + object**:

- Hzy.tn wi “you will bless me” [Kanais B, 11] with prospective /subjunctive sdm.f.
- Hs.n wi (the pharaoh) “favored me” [Nebwau Stela 1, 11], and in line 16 the same phrase is written as Hs.n w(i). Clearly the scribe was trying to save space.

Example with **introductory particle**:

- m.k tw “Look, you…” [ShS. 117].

More complex examples:

- mnwi tw m st.k nt nḥḥ “How firm are you in the seat of eternity!” [Nebankh Stela 3] with the biliteral st and exclamatory adjectival predicate mnwi;
- ḫf. n rdi.f wi m r.f “then he put me into his mouth” [ShS. 76-77].

**Personal Pronouns: Independent (Stressed) Pronouns**

Independent pronouns are separate and independent words and almost always stand at the head of a sentence. The various cases are as follows:
The independent pronouns have different grammatical functions:

1. In AB nominal sentences: First- or second-person independent pronoun in part A as subject or predicate, and third-person independent pronoun in part A as predicate.\(^{17}\)

2. In A \(pw\) nominal sentences: Independent pronoun in part A is always the predicate.

3. In A \(pw\) B nominal sentences: Independent pronoun in part A is always the predicate (rare).

4. First person (singular and plural) subjects of adjectival sentences;\(^{18}\)

5. Part A in adjectival sentences of possession \(ni\) AB: “B belongs to A;”

6. Agent of an infinitive (rare).

Examples:

\[ink \text{ \(htmt(i)-ntf\)} \] “I am a royal seal bearer/treasurer” [Khetty Stela 2, 2];

\[ntf \text{ \(z\) \(wsir\)} \] “He is the son of Osiris” [CT IV 37 f Sq6C]\(^{19}\)

\(^{17}\) Here and below; for details see Nominal Sentences.

\(^{18}\) Here and below; for details see Adjectival Sentences.

\(^{19}\) CT is reference for the 7-volume work of A. de Buck, The Egyptian Coffin Texts, Oriental Institute, Chicago.
A more complex example:

(ntf sw3h irrt.i “He is someone who makes/shall make my deeds endure” [Kanais C, 8] (sw3h “set, make endure” is a causative verb, here a participle “who makes endure.” irrt.i lit. “(those) that I have been making” is a feminine (imperfective) relative form and as such it often has future meaning. The plural is indicated by strokes and the suffixed subject is visibly a king, actually Sety I).)

**Demonstrative Pronouns**

One of the forerunners of the Middle Egyptian demonstrative pronouns were adjectives with deictic functions. They are formed by the pronominal bases MS p-, FS t-, MPL ip-, FPL ipt-, and the deictic indicators –n (nearby), -f (distant), -w (< i, nearby), and –A (vocative and/or colloquial). Combining these yields the early Egyptian n-series pn, tn, ipn, iptn, the f-series, the w-series, and the A-series (in the latter the plurals are not attested). In addition to these, another set of neutral demonstrative pronouns was formed by the pronominal base n- and the deictic indicators: nn, nf, nw, n3. In Middle Egyptian, the n-series replaced the w-series pw (< pi), tw (< ti), ipw, iptw (the latter found mostly in older religious texts) and the pronoun pw acquired the function as copula21 “this [is] > “is” in nominal sentences. In addition, the earlier plurals (in both genders) have been replaced by a construction using the neutral n-demonstrative pronouns followed by the genitival adjective n.

The most frequently used Middle Egyptian demonstratives are summarized in the following table:

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20 Specifying location or identity from the perspective of the speaker.
21 Linking verb; see Nominal Sentences.
The $n$-series and the $f$-series are usually used together for contrast: “this” and “that.” In later Egyptian the $\beta$-series evolved into the definite article. When the demonstrative pronouns are used by themselves (without an accompanying noun), Middle Egyptian usually uses the neutral forms. The relative position of MS/FS demonstrative pronouns to a noun $A$ are as follows:

$$A \ pn/tn, \ p_\beta/\beta A, \ pf/pf_\beta/\beta f/\beta f A \ or \ A \ pf/pf_\beta/\beta f/\beta f A$$

The plurals always precede the noun:

$$nn \ n A, \ nf_\beta \ n A, \ n_\beta \ n A$$

Examples for $n$-series:

"today," lit. “this day” [Neferti 4];

"this border" [Semna Stela 2, 17-18];

“this island of $kA$” (or phantom island$^{23}$) [ShS. 114], with $pn$ in forward position within the indirect genitive; similarly:

“this offering stone of eternity”$^{24}$ with the $b\beta$-bird $\beta$;

“this town” [Urk. IV, 4, 3] and a bit later in the same text:

$\beta$-bird

“this temple” [Kanais B, 10] with honorific transposition in $A$;

“this place” [Urk. IV, 3, 16];

$^{22}$ The members of the $f$-series occasionally show an extra $\beta$-ending (always in plural).

$^{23}$ Maspero’s translation.

$^{24}$ British Museum Stela 233, line 2; see this web site.
one of these days [Neferti 2] (emended from Liverpool Ostracon) with the biliteral \( w^c \);

\( \text{dd.n.i nn n} \) “I speak as follows,” lit. “as these” [Kanais C, 2].

Examples for \( f \)-series:

\( \text{Dw pf n pr-\( hrw-n \)-\( htiw-mfk\)3t} \) “that mountain of the House-of-Horus-of-the-Turquoise-Terraces” [Khetty Stela 2, 4] with \( \text{\( htiw \)} \) “terraces” (is a determinative);

\( \text{nf\( n \) bw-nfr} \) “those good things” [Neferti 30] with \( \text{bw-nfr} \), an Egyptian idiom for good things;

\( \text{nf\( n \) DfAw} \) “these provisions” [Neferti 32].

Examples for \( z \)-series:

\( \text{p\( n \) m\( n \)w p\( n \) bik} \) “the sight of the falcon” [Kanais A] (referring to the swiftness of the falcon’s eye), where \( \text{p\( n \)} \) is originally a demonstrative pronoun but here it is used as the definite article “the;”

\( \text{t\( n \) tz t\( n \) bik} \) “the transport (lit. journey) of the gold” [Kanais A];

\( \text{n\( n \) dmiw n t\( n \) kmt} \) “those towns of Egypt” [Kamose Stela 2, 24];

\( \text{n\( n \) (n) nbw} \) “the lords” [Kanais B, 13] (the genitival adjective is suppressed as the following noun starts with \( n \)).