

Indefinite Pronouns

14b. A **pronoun** is a word used in place of one or more nouns or pronouns.

An **indefinite pronoun** refers to a person, a place, a thing, or an idea that may or may not be specifically named.

EXAMPLES They spent **most** of the weekend planning their trip.
Did **someone** call my name?

EXERCISE Underline all the indefinite pronouns in the following paragraphs.

Example [1] Are any of the native insects, plants, and animals losing their habitat, and thus their lives, to ones arriving from other countries?

[1] Around the globe, species alien to a given area are changing the environment and the economy for anyone or anything already established in that area. [2] Some of these unwelcome guests have traveled to their new homes via humans, animals, or insects; others have arrived in ships, suitcases, clothing, and even old tires.

[3] The intrusion of a few of these creatures and the changes that many of them have brought have not always been accidental. [4] Much of the fish habitat in U.S. inland waters has been changed forever because too many of the nonnative species were knowingly mixed in with the native ones. [5] Nutria, animals that were previously one of the popular substitutes for mink, have been released into swamps and marshes; by consuming root systems, each has contributed to habitat and species loss and to erosion.

[6] However, the case has usually been that someone or something unknowingly introduced the pests that annoy and destroy. [7] Zebra mussels and plants such as leafy spurge, hydrilla, and floating fern clog many of our U.S. waterways and irrigation systems. [8] In the Black Sea area of Europe, several of the fisheries already in trouble because of polluted waters closed when a good many were infiltrated by the Atlantic jellyfish.

[9] Present in the U.S. since the 1980s, both of the mites that infect honeybees have destroyed much of keepers' colonies and ninety percent of all of the nation's wild honeybees. [10] Finally, nobody wants to contract one of the seventeen diseases carried by the Asian tiger mosquito or to experience the painful sting of the imported red fire ant.