

they (*полная форма*); *дѣ, дѣ* (*редуцированные формы*)] *pers pron (them)*

- они (*о людях, животных, предметах и т. п.*)
they are on the table - они на столе
what are they doing? - что они делают?
they alone can help us - только они могут помочь нам
I like them - мне они нравятся
call them - позови их
speak to them - поговорите с ними
many of them - многие из них
both of them - они оба
there were three of them - их было трое
give me half of them - дайте мне половину (из них)
every one of them was killed - они были убиты все до одного
them I do not admire - вот ими-то я отнюдь не восхищаюсь

2. в *грам. знач. неопр. мест.* люди

- they say that ... - говорят, что ...
in Italy they sing all the time - в Италии всё время поют

3. в *грам. знач. относ. мест. уст.* те (кто)

- they who believe - те, которые верят
they do least who talk most - тот, кто много говорит, мало делает

4. в *грам. знач. личного мест.* он

- nobody ever admits they are wrong - ни один человек никогда не признает, что он неправ

they

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

they *BrE* [ðeɪ] ^m *NAmE* [ðeɪ] ^m pronoun

(used as the subject of a verb)

- people, animals or things that have already been mentioned or are easily identified
 - ‘Where are John and Liz?’ ‘They went for a walk.’
 - They (= the things you are carrying) go on the bottom shelf.
- used instead of he or she to refer to a person whose sex is not mentioned or not known
 - If anyone arrives late they'll have to wait outside.
- people in general
 - The rest, as they say, is history.
- people in authority or experts
 - They cut my water off.
 - They now say that red wine is good for you.

Word Origin:

[**they**] Middle English: from Old Norse **their**, nominative plural masculine of **sá**; related to **↑them** and **↑their**, also to **↑that** and **↑the**.

More About:

gender

Ways of talking about men and women

When you are writing or speaking English it is important to use language that includes both men and women equally. Some people may be very offended if you do not. **The human race**

Man and **mankind** have traditionally been used to mean ‘all men and women’. Many people now prefer to use **humanity**, the human race, human beings or people. **Jobs**

The suffix **-ess** in names of occupations such as **actress**, **hostess** and **waitress** shows that the person doing the job is a woman. Many people now avoid these. Instead you can use **actor** or **host**, (although **actress** and **hostess** are still very common) or a neutral word, such as **server** for **waiter** and **waitress**.

Neutral words like **assistant**, **worker**, **person** or **officer** are now often used instead of **-man** or **-woman** in the names of jobs. For example, you can use **police officer** instead of **policeman** or **policewoman**, and **spokesperson** instead of **spokesman** or **spokeswoman**. Neutral words are very common in newspapers, on television and radio and in official writing, in both *BrE* and *NAmE*.

When talking about jobs that are traditionally done by the other sex, some people say: a male secretary/nurse/model (NOT man) or a woman/female doctor/barrister/driver. However this is now not usually used unless you need to emphasize which sex the person is, or it is still unusual for the job to be done by a man/woman: ▫ My daughter prefers to see a woman doctor. ▫ They have a male nanny for their kids. ▫ a female racing driver **Pronouns**

He used to be considered to cover both men and women: ▫ Everyone needs to feel he is loved. This is not now acceptable. Instead, after everybody, everyone, anybody, anyone, somebody, someone, etc. one of the plural pronouns they, them, and their is often used: ▫ Does everybody know what they want? ▫ Somebody's left their coat here. ▫ I hope nobody's forgotten to bring their passport with them.

Some people prefer to use he or she, his or her, or him or her in speech and writing: ▫ Everyone knows what's best for him or herself. He/she or (s)he can also be used in writing: ▫ If in doubt, ask your doctor. He/she can give you more information. (You may find that some writers just use ‘she’.) These uses can seem awkward when they are used a lot. It is better to try to change the sentence, using a plural noun. Instead of saying: ▫ A baby cries when he or she is tired you can say ▫ Babies cry when they are tired.

they **S1 W1** /ðeɪ/ *BrE* ^ˈ *AmE* ^ˈ *pronoun* [used as the subject of a verb]

[Date: 1100-1200; Language: Old Norse; Origin: their]

1. used to refer to two or more people or things that have already been mentioned or are already known about:

- Bob and Sue said they wouldn't be able to come.
- Ken gave me some flowers. Aren't they beautiful?
- They all want to come to the wedding.

2. **they say/think etc** used to state what people in general say or think:

- They say it's bad luck to spill salt.

3. *spoken* used to refer to a particular organization or group of people:

- Where are they going to build the new highway?
- They're going to take an X-ray.

4. used when talking about someone who may be male or female, to avoid saying 'he or she':

- If anyone has any information related to the crime, will they please contact the police.
- Every child, whoever they are, deserves to have a mum and a dad.

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GRAMMAR

You can use **they**, **them**, and **their** to refer to a single person when you do not want to show that the person is male or female.

People do this because they want to avoid suggesting that the person can only be male, or using longer expressions such as 'he or she', 'him or her' etc:

- If anyone doesn't like it, they can leave.
- When a friend upsets you, do you tell them?
- Someone has left their coat behind.

This use is acceptable and very common in speech, and is becoming more acceptable in writing as well.

However, some people consider this use to be incorrect. You can sometimes avoid the problem by making the subject plural:

- If people don't like it, they can leave.
- When friends upset you, do you tell them?

they

Frequency Pack

12500 **24**^{MCW}

15000 **14**^{COCA}

RANGE: **1k** **THEY** 3881800

they 1945940

their 1131095

theirs 4338

them 708321

em 3128

themselves 88978

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

155577 **20**¹⁹⁴⁴⁹¹⁷ *pphs2*

418 **30914**⁵²⁸ *nn1*

402 **32425**⁴⁸⁵ *jj*

6 **349997**⁶ *vbdr*

4 **425306**⁴ *cc*