Demonstrative, Interrogative, and Relative Pronouns

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

A demonstrative pronoun points out a specific person, place, thing, or idea. An interrogative pronoun introduces a question. A relative pronoun introduces a subordinate clause.

DEMONSTRATIVE  That is my sister’s notebook.
INTERROGATIVE  Who is coming to the party?
RELATIVE  The girl whom they nominated for class president is Gloria.

Exercise A  In the sentences below, identify each underlined pronoun by writing above the pronoun D for demonstrative, I for interrogative, or R for relative.

Example 1.  What did Maria learn that helped her to solve the equation?

1. Of those colleagues, whom will you take to the session that begins at noon?
2. This is an outline that explains how to study properly.
3. Of the cat’s newborn kittens, these are the two that I will adopt.
4. Aunt Phyllis saw my book and asked, “Whose is this?”
5. Inez is among those who are trying out for roles in the spring musical.
6. Which of those does Angelo think is the better design for the new student center?
7. These are the problems for both teams: the weather, which doesn’t seem to be improving, and transportation to the stadium.
8. Jackson said, “Many people have told me that. Why should I not believe the story that I have heard?”
9. He read aloud Browning’s sonnet, which was the most touching poem that I had ever heard.
10. Lomasi told Henry, whom she trusted, something that she wanted him to keep secret.

Exercise B  In each of the sentences below, underline the type of pronoun given in parentheses at the end of the sentence.

Example 1.  Who is coordinating the planning for this year’s event? (interrogative)

11. Those involved with music are preparing for the annual music festival. (demonstrative)
12. The crowd, which was very large last year, is expected to double. (relative)
13. The bands that will draw the largest crowds should begin at noon. (relative)
14. Several of these, whose music many have heard, have won competitions. (demonstrative)
15. Who could ask them whether they will play rock or blues or both? (interrogative)