Pronoun – Antecedent Agreement Notes

REMEMBER:
A ___________ PRONOUN ___________ is used IN PLACE OF a ___________ NOUN ___________.

An ___________ ANTECEDENT ___________ is the ___________ NOUN ___________ that is being replaced.

Mary ate all her vegetables. (Mary is the antecedent; her is the pronoun).

Rules of Pronoun – Antecedent Agreement

1. A pronoun must agree with its antecedent in ___________ GENDER (male or female) ___________.
   Wrong: Each of the girls put his stuff into the car.
   Right: Each of the girls put her stuff into the car.

2. A pronoun must agree with its antecedent in ___________ PERSON ___________.
   First person: ___________ I, WE ___________; Second person: ___________ YOU ___________; Third person: ___________ SHE, HE, IT, THEY ___________.
   Wrong: If students refuse to learn the rules of proper writing, you can forget a good grade in this class.
   Right: If students refuse to learn the rules of proper writing, they can forget a good grade in this class.

3. A pronoun must agree with its antecedent in ___________ NUMBER (singular or plural) ___________.
   Wrong: Each girl wants to look beautiful on their prom night.
   Right: Each girl wants to look beautiful on her prom night.

SINGULAR PERSONAL PRONOUNS

subject pronouns               object pronouns               possessive pronouns
   I                        me                    my, mine
   you                      you                    your, yours
   he, she, it               him, her, it             his, her, hers, its

PLURAL PERSONAL PRONOUNS

subject pronouns               object pronouns               possessive pronouns
   we                        us                      our, ours
   you                       you                      your, yours
   they                      them                    their, theirs
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Pronoun Practice: Replace the italicized word with a pronoun that agrees with the antecedent.

1. Chris lost Chris’s notebook in history class last night.

2. The teacher and her students left the teacher’s and student’s belongings in the classroom during the fire drill.

3. Rufus Xavier Sasparillas found a kangaroo, and then took the kangaroo to Rufus Xavier Sasparillas’s house.

4. Whitman notes that Whitman’s ancestors include Whitman’s parents and Whitman’s parents parents.

5. I saw many astronomers at the convention, and the astronomers all brought the astronomer’s wives with the astronomers.

Special Cases

1. When two or more SINGULAR noun antecedents are joined by AND, they make a PLURAL antecedent. (1+1=2)
   Example: The bride and groom say their vows.

2. When two or more singular noun antecedents are joined by OR or NOR, choose a pronoun to agree with the antecedent CLOSEST to the verb.
   Examples: Either May or Lois will bring her husband.
   Neither the women nor the men brought their money.

3. As antecedents, the indefinite pronouns below ALWAYS take a SINGULAR pronoun. Look at them closely:

   These should be easy to remember.

   either anybody somebody everybody nobody each
   neither anyone someone everyone no one one
   other anything something everyone no one one
   anything everything something everyone no one one

   Wrong: Somebody left their umbrella.
   Right: Somebody left his or her umbrella.

   EXAMPLES:

   One of the women left ____________________ umbrella.
   Everyone needs to bring ____________________ homework.
   Each doctor is responsible for ____________________ patients.
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4. The following indefinite pronouns _______ LWAYS _______ take _______ PLURAL _______ pronoun referents.
   
   **both**  **few**  **many**  **several**  **others**

Wrong: Few students turned in his or her assignment.
Right: Few students turned in their assignments.

EXAMPLES:

The police asked both of the witnesses if _________________ had any information.
Several men left __________________________ wives at home.
Many NFL players miss _________________ families during the season.

5. However, the following indefinite pronoun antecedents may be _______ EITHER _______ singular or plural, depending upon how they are _______ USED _______ in the sentence.

   **all**  **most**  **some**  **any**  **none**

Generally speaking, if one of these indefinite pronouns is used to designate something that _______ CAN _______ be counted, then the pronoun is _______ PLURAL _______.
If one of these indefinite pronouns is used to designate something that _______ CANNOT _______ be counted, then the pronoun is _______ SINGULAR _______.

Wrong: All of the sugar is still in their wrapper.
Right: All of the sugar is still in its wrapper.

EXAMPLES:

Most of the voters casted _______ ballots on Tuesday.
None of the class studied for _______ test.
Some of the rice spilled out of _______ bag.

**Pronoun Review:** Underline the pronoun and highlight the antecedent. Then decide if they agree or disagree. If they disagree, write the correct pronoun above the incorrect one.

1. Everybody loves their mother.

2. Every player on the team played their best.
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3. Either Larry or Ted might lend me their bike.

4. If a man wants to stay healthy, they need to watch what his eat.

5. Some of the girls bought her shoes at the mall.

6. President Lincoln gave its famous speech at Gettysburg.

7. Each of the Boy Scouts is trying to sell more popcorn than his neighbor.

8. Neither Susan nor her friends drove her car to the party.

9. My copy of Twilight has a tear on my cover.

10. The South lost the civil war; they also faced financial hardships.

11. No one can know if they will get a job in June.

12. The growing complexity of economics has not lessened their appeal to students.

13. The teachers’ union lost their right to bargain.

14. Anyone who turned in a late paper had their grade reduced.

15. Does everybody know where they’re going now?

16. Neither Herbert nor his brothers could find their book bags.

17. Bettors tend to follow his or her own whims at the racetrack.

18. Every dog on the block barded themselves hoarse last night.

19. The College of Arts and Sciences changed their entrance requirements.

20. Neither of the two cars is know for their fuel economy.

21. Every police officer anticipated the danger they would encounter.

22. The manager or the employees will get their raises, but not both.

23. No one could see where they were going because of the fog.

24. Each of the employees got a raise on his or her anniversary with the company.

25. Someone had left his shoes in my locker.