Pronoun - Antecedent Agreement Notes

REMEMBER:
A ________________ is used IN PLACE OF a __________.

An __________ is the __________ 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>subject pronouns</th>
<th>object pronouns</th>
<th>possessive pronouns</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>me</td>
<td>my, mine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>you</td>
<td>you</td>
<td>your, yours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>he, she, it</td>
<td>him, her, it</td>
<td>his, her, hers, its</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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PLURAL PERSONAL PRONOUNS

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</tr>
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<td>they</td>
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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.]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>either</th>
<th>anybody</th>
<th>somebody</th>
<th>everybody</th>
<th>nobody</th>
<th>each</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>neither</td>
<td>anyone</td>
<td>someone</td>
<td>everyone</td>
<td>no one</td>
<td>one</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>other</td>
<td>anything</td>
<td>something</td>
<td>everything</td>
<td>nothing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   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 **ALWAYS** 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 he eats.
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 barked themselves hoarse last night.
19. The College of Arts and Sciences changed their entrance requirements.
20. Neither of the two cars is known 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.