

Pronoun Antecedent Agreement

An **antecedent** is the noun or pronoun to which a pronoun refers. A pronoun must agree with its antecedent in person, number, and gender. The following antecedents are referred to by singular pronouns: *anybody, anyone, each, either, everybody, everyone, neither, nobody, no one, one, somebody, someone*.

Singular antecedents joined by *or* or *nor* are referred to by a singular pronoun. Collective nouns may take either a singular or a plural pronoun depending on meaning. When the antecedent is a noun that may be either masculine or feminine, it is acceptable to use the phrase *his or her* to refer to it.

A. Identifying Antecedents

In each sentence below, write a **P** over the pronoun and an **A** over the antecedent.

A
P

Example Did *Marion* say the book was *hers*?

1. The horse threw its rider onto the ground.
2. Freshmen can try out for the debate team if they are so inclined.
3. Sometimes typists place carbon paper in their typewriters to make extra copies.
4. Cora solved the problem on her home computer.
5. The museum displayed its collection of early Americana.
6. Neither Peter nor Peter's mother can read his sister's handwriting.

B. Making Pronouns and Antecedents Agree

Check the italicized pronouns to make sure that they agree with their antecedents. If a pronoun does not agree with its antecedent, write the proper pronoun in the blank. If a pronoun agrees with its antecedent, write **Correct**.

1. Several of the photography students entered *his or her* self-portraits in a contest. _____
2. Neither Anton nor Juan wants *their* painting sold at the exhibit. _____
3. Each of the clubs will present *their* own program on Friday. _____
4. The ballet troupe is having *their* picture taken. _____
5. Did anyone claim the book as *theirs*? _____
6. The cast went *their* separate ways when the play ended. _____
7. Ten tourists waited patiently in line for *his or her* tickets. _____
8. Either Annie or Jane will give *their* report today. _____
9. Everyone came up after class to pick up *his or her* exam. _____
10. Susan and Linette invited me to go fishing on *their* boat. _____