

Pronoun and Antecedent Agreement, Speaking and Listening

Section Objective:

- Practice the behaviors of effective, active listeners.
- Students will show the ability to create agreement between subjects and verbs as well as pronouns and antecedents.
- Students will be able to explain what purpose action serves in a story and the ways in which action must advance the plot.

Grammar

Usage: Agreement Of Pronoun And Antecedent

1. A pronoun agrees with its antecedent in number and gender.

An antecedent of a pronoun is the noun or pronoun to which the pronoun refers.

He should have done it himself.

Danny scored his first touchdown last Thursday.

The dancers put on their costumes.

The commercial stressed its message for only seven minutes.

2. Some words are referred to by a singular pronoun.

<u>Words</u>	<u>Singular Pronouns</u>
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each	he
either	him
neither	his
one	she
everyone	her
everybody	hers
no one	it
nobody	its
anyone	
someone	

Everyone of the women enjoys herself when she comes.

Note: If an antecedent is both masculine and feminine, some writers use the masculine form to represent all of mankind. Other writers will refer to both the masculine and feminine forms.

Everyone had his books.

Everyone had his or her book.

3. Two or more singular antecedents joined by or or nor should be referred to by a singular pronoun.

Neither Emily or Leah remembered

to bring her book to class.

4. Two or more antecedents joined by and should be referred to by a plural pronoun.

Arlene and Maria offered their help.

Note: Writers who write formally use and follow these rules.

For writers who write informally, some of these rules may not be used.

Formal: Neither of the sons disappointed his father.

Informal: Neither of the sons disappointed their father.

Practice Agreement of Pronoun and Antecedent

Directions: Select the correct pronoun, based on its antecedent. Use the rules of formal English usage.

1. Each of the scientists refused to publish (their, his, his or her) results.
2. All of the players reported to (their, his, his or her) coaches early.
3. Every one of the writers asked (their, his, his or her) publishers for an extension.
4. I wondered if anybody would buy (their, his, his or her) products.
5. No one helped (their, his, his or her) grandmother clean the house.
6. Neither of the girls refused (their, his, his or her) help to the others.
7. Neither of the laws could stand on (its, their) own.
8. If anyone gets lost, (he, he or she, they) should come back to the capital building.
9. Joe said he would do it (hissself, himself).
10. Both Gina and Elizabeth put on (her, their) princess dresses.

Growth Activity

1. Analyze the pronoun/ antecedent agreement in your own writing.