

CHAPTER 8 Agreement

Agreement of Pronouns with Antecedents

All pronouns must agree with their antecedents in **number** (singular or plural) and **gender** (feminine, masculine, or neuter).

1. Use a singular pronoun to refer to a singular antecedent.
Babe Ruth slugged *his* home run to the spot to which *he* had pointed.
2. Use a plural pronoun to refer to a plural antecedent.
The fans cheered *their* idol.
3. Use a plural pronoun to refer to two or more antecedents that are joined by *and*.
Helen Wills and Babe Ruth were noted for *their* athletic skills.
4. Use a singular pronoun to refer to two or more singular antecedents that are joined by *or* or *nor*.
Did President Harding or President Coolidge die while *he* was in office?
5. Use a plural pronoun to refer to two or more plural antecedents that are joined by *or* or *nor*.
Fruits or cereals are popular breakfast foods because *they* are tasty to eat.

EXERCISE Underline the correct pronoun in each of the following sentences.

EXAMPLE: Joan locked herself, themselves) out.

1. Virginia City was given (their, its) name by a man named "Old Virginia."
2. The plane and the helicopter returned to (its, their) aircraft carrier.
3. A lone sentry gazed at the ship as (he, it) came into the harbor to unload its cargo.
4. Neither Sean nor Devin received (his, their) paycheck on Friday.
5. The teacher and the students returned (his, their) earphones at the end of the tour.
6. Either Warner or Justin turned (his, their) report in late.
7. Juanita thought that (she, they) could practice her speech before class.
8. Like so many people, Chris easily learned (his, their) multiplication tables.
9. Either Emma or Amber forgot (her, their) lunch.
10. The elms or the maples are losing (its, their) leaves.
11. Has Annette or Emily fixed (herself, themselves) a sandwich for lunch?
12. Can Jon and Larry keep (his, their) secret?
13. Stephen carefully wrapped (their, his) present to take home.
14. After the victory, the team members applauded (its, their) coach.
15. Hamsters or mice often eat all of (its, their) food at one time.