

## PRONOUNS AND ANTECEDENTS

**A pronoun agrees with its antecedent in number, gender, and person.** If the antecedent is singular, a singular pronoun is required. The plural antecedent requires a plural pronoun.

The following antecedents are referred to by singular pronouns: **anybody, anyone, each, either, everybody, everyone, neither, nobody, one, somebody, someone.**

- ex. Each of the boys has his own savings account.  
Anyone can achieve his or her goals.

Singular antecedents joined by **or/nor** are referred to by a singular pronoun.

- ex. John nor Dave could find his jacket.  
A dog or a cat can find its way home.

Collective nouns may take either a singular or plural pronoun, depending on the meaning of the sentence.

- ex. The cast is having its picture taken. (whole group as one)  
The cast quickly took their places on stage. (individuals)

**Choosing the Right Pronoun.** Underline the correct pronoun.

1. Neither Mary nor Laura has turned in (her, their) report.
2. Anybody can learn to set up (his, their) own tent.
3. Each of the boys takes care of (his, their) own room.
4. Neither Tom nor Jim can give (his, their) report today.
5. Anyone can join our group if (he, they) is really interested.
6. The team can't play (its, their) best when it's too hot.
7. Either Bill or Tony will lend you (his, their) book.
8. Everyone should do (his, their) best work on the project.
9. George wants to go into politics; he finds (it, them) exciting.
10. Everyone should be in (his, their) seat before the curtain goes up.
11. Some of the team are wearing (his, their) new helmets.
12. Every class officer will do (her, their) best.
13. I find that playing bridge is hard on (my, your) nerves.
14. Some of the vanilla has lost (its, their) flavor.
15. Everybody will receive (his, their) scores in the mail.
16. Someone will be disappointed by (his, their) grade on the exam.
17. One should not worry too much about (his, their) past mistakes.
18. Each of us is prepared to give (his, their) speech on Thursday.
19. Has anyone lost (her, their) jacket?
20. Nobody plays (his, their) best when the humidity is very high.

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