

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Miss Crossley

\_\_ LA Period: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement

**Directions:** Part 1- Fill in the blanks and complete each example below:

Rule I: All pronouns have \_\_\_\_\_.

A. An **antecedent** is the word which the pronoun \_\_\_\_\_.

B. Example: Barbara rode her bike home from school.

The **antecedent** for her is \_\_\_\_\_ (the person to whom the word 'her' refers).

Rule II: The pronoun agrees with its antecedent in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

(i.e., 3<sup>rd</sup> person singular).

A. Use a **singular** pronoun to replace a \_\_\_\_\_ antecedent.

Example: The dogged wagged (its, their) tail.

B. Use a **plural** pronoun to replace a \_\_\_\_\_ antecedent.

Example: The salespeople sold (his, their) own merchandise.

C. Prepositional phrases \_\_\_\_\_ affect whether a pronoun or its antecedent is singular or plural.

Example: Each of the members gave (his, their) advice to the president. **It won't sound right**, but it makes sense. **Each** is a singular pronoun. We use it with a singular verb (Do I want chocolate or vanilla? Each makes me happy.) Therefore, we need to choose the singular pronoun to go with it when it is an antecedent.

D. Be careful of **indefinite pronouns** when they are antecedents.

#### Singular Indefinite Pronouns

|                 |                  |                   |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| <b>another</b>  | <b>each</b>      | <b>everything</b> | <b>one</b>       |
| <b>anybody</b>  | <b>either</b>    | <b>neither</b>    | <b>somebody</b>  |
| <b>anyone</b>   | <b>everybody</b> | <b>nobody</b>     | <b>someone</b>   |
| <b>anything</b> | <b>everyone</b>  | <b>no one</b>     | <b>something</b> |

Example: No one wants to let go of (his, their) own ideas.

#### Plural Indefinite Pronouns

|             |            |             |                |
|-------------|------------|-------------|----------------|
| <b>both</b> | <b>few</b> | <b>many</b> | <b>several</b> |
|-------------|------------|-------------|----------------|

Example: Few of the girls can sell (her, their) tickets by Friday.

#### These Pronouns Can Either Be Singular or Plural

|            |            |             |             |             |
|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>all</b> | <b>any</b> | <b>most</b> | <b>none</b> | <b>some</b> |
|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|

Example: None of the stores offer (its, their) merchandise at a discount.

None of the building has had (its, their) inspection yet.

E. Look carefully at ***compound antecedents*** to determine if they are singular or plural.

a) Plural: Jack and Jesse have taken (his, their) vacations already

b) Singular: The lanterns ***or*** the ***flashlight*** needs to have (its, their) batteries checked.

(Closer antecedent)

F. Use the appropriate gender for masculine and feminine antecedents. When gender is not specified, use either masculine or feminine or both (he or she) – just don't use the plural unless you rephrase the sentence with a plural antecedent.

Examples: Each one of the girls forgot (her, their) coat.

When a speaker addresses a group, (he or she, they) should speak clearly.

Almost everyone likes to have (his or her, their) work praised.

**Part 2:** Write an **A** over the antecedent for the pronoun choice in parentheses, then write **S** or **P** next to the number of the sentence to indicate singular or plural. Finally circle the pronoun that agrees with its antecedent.

\_\_\_1. If anyone cares to leave, (he or she, they) may do so now.

\_\_\_2. One of the boys forgot (his, their) lunch.

\_\_\_3. All the actresses brought (her, their) scripts.

\_\_\_4. Neither of them volunteered (his or her, their) services.

\_\_\_5. Neither of the boys did (his, their) homework today.

\_\_\_6. Will everyone please serve (himself or herself, themselves)?

\_\_\_7. Each of the women did (her, their) best.

\_\_\_8. Both Jack and Jill fetched (his or her, their) share of water for the day.

\_\_\_9. Every student must do (his or her, their) own work.

\_\_\_10. Has everyone completed (his or her, their) project?

\_\_\_11. Most of the cargo plane was filled before (its, their) flight.

\_\_\_12. Many a person has to work (his or her, their) way through college.

\_\_\_13. Has either the boy or the girls brought (his or her, their) own skates with them?

\_\_\_14. Helen and Joyce did (her, their) best.

\_\_\_15. Each of the men did (his, their) duty.

\_\_\_16. Will everyone please open (his or her, their) books to the Foreword?

\_\_\_17. Both Marie and Joan dressed up for (his or her, their) pictures today.

\_\_\_18. Each of the NFL stars is responsible for (his, their) conduct in public.

\_\_\_19. All the Girl Scouts met (her, their) quota for selling cookies.

\_\_\_20. Each of the boys would like (his, their) topic to be chosen.

- \_\_\_21. One of the girls lost all of (her, their) books.
- \_\_\_22. I expect everyone to pay (his or her, their) dues on time.
- \_\_\_23. Whichever of you has (his or her, their) money may settle this account now.
- \_\_\_24. Many a lonely kid wishes (he or she, they) could find a good friend in middle school.
- \_\_\_25. A person may conceal (his or her, their) true feelings, but not for long.
- \_\_\_26. Will either of the members who brought a friend with (him or her, them) please step forward?
- \_\_\_27. Every tribe has (its, their) own local customs.
- \_\_\_28. When everyone minds (his or her, their) own business, life is usually much more pleasant.
- \_\_\_29. Neither Millie nor Molly will give (her, their) recitals today.
- \_\_\_30. The search for candidates who have (his or her, their) credentials in good order must continue.

Part 3: Choose the pronoun that agrees with its antecedent. Many correct answers will sound incorrect, and vice versa, so you can't count on that. Use the rules to reason it out.

1. Groucho and Chico and Harp were up to (his, their) usual antics in a movie called *A Night at the Opera*.
2. In the Marx Brothers' movies, either Groucho or Chico swindles (his, their) way across the screen.
3. Groucho's ridiculous eyebrows and foxy slouch have (its, their) place in comic history.
4. His shoddy frock and mobile cigar have also brought (its, their) share of laughs.
5. Chico, in his outgrown jacket, or Harpo, in his oversized raincoat, has (his, their) own comic style.
6. In the original comedy team, Groucho and Chico and Harpo were joined by Zeppo, a fourth brother, who worked with (him, them).
7. In a classic Marx Brothers' scene, Chico and Groucho argue about a contract which (he, they) literally tear apart.
8. Harpo's shrill whistle and strange sign language are interpreted by Chico, who understands (it, them).
9. Neither reality nor reason has (its, their) place in Marx Brothers comedy.
10. Either outrageous action or zany dialogue makes (its, their) criticism of "polite society".

11. The three rascals and several ship's servants and a huge trunk share a humorous scene in which (it, they) are squeezed into a tiny stateroom.
12. Groucho's greasepaint mustache and Harpo's curly pink hair bring snickers by (itself, themselves).
13. In my school either the teacher or one of the students will dress up in a Marx Brothers costume every year to make (his or her, their) mark on the school comedy scene.
14. Each of the brothers would finally find (his, their) niche in the annals of classic film.
15. Unfortunately, every year either my brothers or my neighbor will try to solidify (his, their) own reputation in the neighborhood by attempting a Marx Brothers stunt.

**Part 4:** Underline the antecedent for each pronoun choice, and then circle the pronoun that agrees with its antecedent.

1. Did everyone in the play remember (his, their) lines?
2. If anyone finds a glasses case, will (he, they) please deliver it to the Lost and Found Office.
3. Neither of the boys could find (his, their) way without a compass.
4. Every student in our class had (his, their) picture taken for the Chronicle.
5. In our section of woodland, every bird builds (its, their) own nest except the catbird.
6. Dan has always admired a person who can keep (his, their) head in an emergency.
7. If you have finished either of those magazines, will you lend (it, them) to me?
8. Every member of our family has (his, their) favorite television comedian.
9. The committee has disagreed about (its, their) next move.
10. Each one of the groups will have (its, their) convention here.
11. That package of clothes is heavy, so don't lift (it, them).
12. If any one of the sisters needs a ride to church, (she, they) can call me.
13. Kathryn and Alex are concerned about (her, their) welfare in this course.
14. Did Sam or Chris want (his, their) hair cut?
15. Somebody left (his, their) trash on the road.
16. At the end of the movies, each of the couples cleared up (its, their) misunderstanding.
17. The Washington team was optimistic; (they, it) took advantage of every break.
18. When a person is in trouble, (they, he) may resort to anything.
19. The new style of hats is supposed to be popular, but I don't like (them, it).
20. One has to live with (oneself, themselves), so always be sure to choose the correct pronoun!