**Pronoun Agreement** **Study Pages**

**AGREEMENT WITH INDEFINITE PRONOUNS**

\*Personal pronouns refer to specific people, places, things, or ideas. A pronoun that does not refer to a definite person, place, thing, or idea is known as an *indefinite pronoun.*

**The following indefinite pronouns are singular:** *anybody, anyone, each, either, everybody, everyone, neither, no one, nobody, one, somebody, someone.*

EXAMPLES:  **Each** of the students **gets** a copy of the poem.

**Everyone thinks** the decision was unfair.

**Has either** of the classes **been** to St. Louis?

**The following indefinite pronouns are plural:** *both, few, many, several.*

EXAMPLES:   **Several** of the fish **had**bright spots.

**Both** of your hands **need** mittens.

**The indefinite pronouns***all, any, most, none*, **and** *some* **may be either singular or plural**.

\*\*The number of the pronouns *all, any, most, none*, and *som*e is determined by the number of the object in the prepositional phrase following the subject. If the pronoun refers to a singular object, the pronoun is singular. If the pronoun refers to a plural object, the pronoun is plural.

EXAMPLES:  **Most** of the laundry **is** washed. [*Most* is singular because it refers to one thing—*laundry*. The helping verb *is* is singular to agree with *laundry*.]

**Most** of the clothes **are** washed. [*Most* is plural because it refers to more than one thing—*clothes.* The helping verb *are* is plural to agree with *clothes*.]

**None** of the crew **has** started to paint yet. [*None* is singular because it refers to one thing—*crew*. The helping verb *has* is singular to agree with *crew*.]

**None** of the painters **have** started to paint yet. [*None* is plural because it refers to more than one thing—*painters*.  The helping verb *have* is plural to agree with *painters*.]

**AGREEMENT WITH PRONOUNS AND ANTECEDENT**

An **antecedent** is also a word or phrase that a pronoun refers to: In the sentence, "Joe threw the ball to Wendy, and Wendy threw it back," "the ball" is the **antecedent** of "it."

An antecedent is the word, [**phrase**](http://www.chompchomp.com/terms/phrase.htm), or [**clause**](http://www.chompchomp.com/terms/clause.htm) that you replace with a pronoun.

EXAMPLES: ***Adeline*** bit ***her*** lip. ***Adeline*** = antecedent; ***her*** = personal pronoun.

Our ***friends*** will not attend the picnic because ***they*** do not like burgers.

***Friends*** = antecedent; ***they*** = personal pronoun.

When ***Kris*** sprained his ankle, Coach Ames replaced ***him*** with Jasper.

***Kris*** = antecedent; ***him*** = personal pronoun.

**A pronoun should agree *in gender* with its antecedent**

EXAMPLES: **Anthony** said **he** had done **his** homework.

One of the **girls** has lost **her** book.

**Someone** in the band left **his or her** uniform on the bus.

**Betsy** can’t leave the house until **she** has finished cleaning **her** room.

**A pronoun should agree with its antecedent *in number*.**

EXAMPLES: You may have the last **muffin** if you want **it**.

The **puppies** will thrive if **they** are cared for well.

May I borrow the **book** when you finish **it**?

**INDEFINATE PRONOUNS AS ANTECEDENTS**

**A pronoun should agree with its antecedent in number**

Use a singular pronoun to refer to the indefinite pronouns *anybody, anyone, anything, each, either, everybody, everyone, everything, neither, no one, nobody, nothing, one, somebody, someone,* and *something.*

Use a plural pronoun to refer to the indefinite pronouns *both*, *few*, *many*, and *several.*

The indefinite pronouns *all, any, more, most, none*, and *som*e may be singular or plural, depending on their meaning in the sentence. (see examples on page 1)

**ANTECEDENTS JOINED BY OR, NOR, or AND**

**Use a singular pronoun to refer to two or more singular antecedents joined by *or* or *nor.***

EXAMPLES: **Carmela or Sidney** will present **her** speech today.

Neither the **maple nor** the **oak** has lost all **its** leaves.

**Use a plural pronoun to refer to two or more antecedents joined by *and*.**

EXAMPLES: When **Jeremy and** his **brother** got home, **they** practiced their guitars.

The **coach and** the **players** reviewed **their** game plan.