

## Topic- Noun- Pronoun Agreement

A pronoun is a word that stands for a noun; it saves repeating the noun. The noun that a pronoun stands for is called the antecedent of the pronoun. Pronoun agreement means that a pronoun and its antecedent should match up in a logical way. The two most common areas of needed agreement are number and gender.

- Number agreement requires both the antecedent and the pronoun to be singular or both to be plural.
- Gender agreement requires both the antecedent and the pronoun to be female or both to be male, or a genderless pronoun to be used appropriately to refer to either males or females.

Examples:

1. Early typewriters were cumbersome. Some required a foot pedal to return the carriage. (both typewriters and some are plural and genderless)
2. In 1867 Christopher Sholes built the first typewriter that was considered practical. He later signed a contract with gunsmiths E. Remington and Sons to manufacture his machine. (Christopher Sholes, he and his are all singular and male.)
3. I learned these facts from my grandfather and sister; they collect typewriters. (The noun grandfather and sister are used together as a plural subject; they is plural. The genderless they can refer to either male or female)

### Some more rules for pronoun agreement:

# In case of a **compound subject** including one pronoun, the pronoun always come second.

X I and Rina are going to school.

√ Rina and I are going to school.

# A pronoun **in objective case** cannot act as subject in a sentence. Neither a pronoun in subjective case can act as an object in the sentence.

X Ravi and Me are planning a party.

√ Ravi and I are planning a party.

X This gift is for you and I.

√ This gift is for you and me.

# **Reflexive pronouns** cannot act as subjects in a sentence.

X Rohit and myself are confident of our success.

√ Rohit and I are confident of our success.

# Indefinite Pronouns (all, any, many, more, some, none, each, every) are often involved in agreement errors involving number. Some indefinite pronoun are always plural, some are always singular, and some can be either depending on whether the antecedent is singular or plural. **Some indefinite pronouns such as everyone, everything, somebody and anyone-are especially likely to be involved in agreement**

errors because they seem to be plural but are actually singular.

X Everybody needs to bring their grammar books tomorrow.

√ Everybody needs to bring his/her grammar book tomorrow.

√ All the students need to bring their grammar books tomorrow.

# Use who when you need a pronoun of subjective case and whom when you need a pronoun in objective case in the sentence.

X You are speaking to Who?

√ You are speaking to whom?

X Whom all are ready?

√ Who all are ready?

### **Exercise: Pronoun Errors:**

1. Avinash didn't know who he should take to the party.  
- Avinash didn't know whom he should take to the party.
2. Everybody ran away to their respective houses on hearing about the arrival of dacoits.  
- Everybody ran away to his or her respective house on hearing about the arrival of dacoits.
3. The army had to suffer terrible privations in their march.  
- The army had to suffer terrible privations in its march.
4. The baby fell from bed and hurt his leg.  
- The baby fell from the bed and hurt its leg.
5. Each must do their work, do not copy from your neighbor.  
- Each must do his or her work; do not copy from your neighbor.
6. This is the girl from summer fields School who painting won the first prize at the interschool art competition.  
- This is the girl from Summer Fields School whose painting won the first prize at the interschool art competition.
7. I have been informed by Vibhor, Richa and he about the Saturday evening dance.  
- I have been informed by Vibhor, Richa, and him about the Saturday evening dance.
8. All the students except I are going for the nature walk.  
- All the students except me are going for the nature walk.
9. People that are too sharp cut their own fingers.  
- People who are too sharp cut their own fingers.

10. One must not be overconfident of his own success.
  - One must not be overconfident of one's own success.
11. I and Rohit took the initiative.
  - Rohit and I took the initiative.
12. This chocolate box is for you and I.
  - This chocolate box is for you and me.
13. They always talk whom never perform.
  - They always talk who never perform.
14. Ayush and us are going to join the same school.
  - Ayush and we are going to join the same school.
15. When they have enough money, Karan and her will probably buy a Lancer.
  - When they have enough money, Karan and she will probably buy a Lancer.
16. The bus leaves Daphne and She at the corner.
  - The bus leaves Daphne and her at the corner.
17. Do you really believe that Ripul Khanna has blamed us for the punishment, especially, you and I?
  - Do you really believe that Ripul Khanna has blamed us for the punishment, especially you and me?
18. Among we boys, he is the most intelligent.
  - Among us boys, he is the most intelligent.
19. My mother approves of me acting in movies.
  - My mother approves of my acting in movies.
20. The matron insisted on she taking up a break from the hectic studies.
  - The matron insisted on her taking up a break from the hectic studies.
21. Annie and Robert are not dating one another anymore.
  - Annie and Robert are not dating each other anymore.
22. It was her, Jackie who stayed with Helen for ten years, teaching and encouraging her student.
  - It was she, Jackie, who stayed with Helen for ten years, teaching and encouraging her student.
23. His brilliant passing skills make himself one of the best in the game today.
  - His brilliant passing skills make him one of the best in the game today.

24. Power enables one to do as he likes.  
- Power enables one to do as one likes.
25. Radha visited Rajeev and I.  
- Radha visited Rajeev and me.
26. The fleet will take their position.  
- The fleet will take its position.
27. The female lion is called lioness as it has no mane.  
- The female lion is called a lioness as she has no mane.
28. Nobody in their right senses would have uttered such foolish remarks.  
- Nobody in his or her right senses would have uttered such foolish remarks.
29. The meeting was delayed because of he coming late.  
- The meeting was delayed because of him coming late.
30. The committee decided the matter without leaving its seats.  
- The committee decided the matter without leaving its seats.
31. Ravi and Myself are best of friends.  
- Ravi and I are best of friends.
32. The entire emigration process was taken care of by Shambhu and herself.  
- The entire emigration process was taken care of by Shambhu and her.