Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_

SAT: Indefinite Pronoun Agreement

Occasionally there are some difficult words that we aren’t sure how to deal with:

Somebody, Anybody, Everybody, Nobody

Someone, Anyone, Everyone, No one

Either, Neither, Or, Nor They are SINGULAR

Any, Every, Each

Ex. Everyone should eat his / their lima beans because there are starving kids in Refton.

HIS refers back to Everyone (the antecedent).

But what about certain indefinite pronouns like *some*, *all*, and *enough*?

Some (of us) is / are going to order Chinese food and have a last night study session before our exam tomorrow.

WE [Some of us] are going . . .

Some (of the class) feels / feel that it deserves / they deserve an easy final exam.

It [Some of the class] feels . . .

*None* is a special case of contention. Originally, *none* meant *not one* or *not a one*, making it singular. But, we should treat none as the opposite of all and treat it the same way, with its number determined by the number in the modifier or referent.

None of the students *want* to leave American Lit in January.

None of the cake *was eaten* at Anthony’s bar mitzvah.

Read the following sentences and correct the errors in agreement. Look for both pronoun and consequential subject/verb errors. Not all sentences are incorrect.

1. **Neither** Cody **nor** Alex would admit that they jammed the mechanical pencil into Mitchell’s ear.

2. **Both** Sami and Emily giggled when they saw Mr. Marsh tie Josh’s sagging pants up with an extension cord.

3. **Everyone** in Mr. Dougherty’s Accelerated American Lit class wonder why they don’t get to read groovy poetry by Emily Dickinson.

4. After the class was attacked by a swarm of Louisiana mosquitoes during the hiking trip, Mr. Cooper gave **every** student their injection of malaria repellent.

5. **Some** of the members of the chess team were called in to the office for bullying the football players.

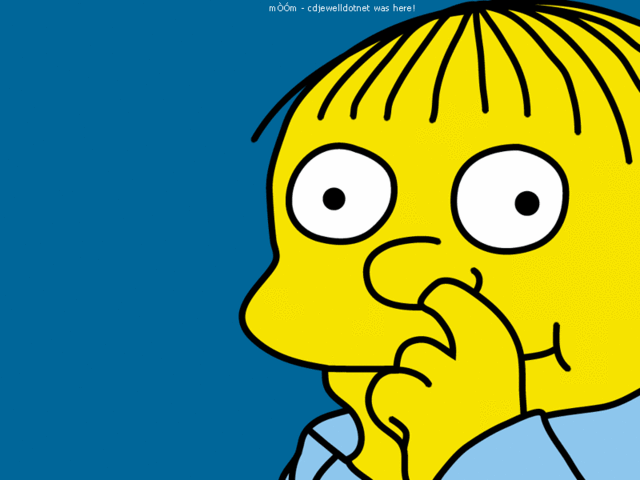
6. **None** of the chess team were expelled for their actions, but **all** of the football team was ridiculed by the student body.

7. If **any** boy on the wrestling team wants a new singlet, I can let them have one.

8. **Every** girl on the cheerleading squad should choose five of her best pictures for the yearbook.

9. Will **someone** lend me their glass eye for the marble contest?

10. After **each** of the members of the fencing team received their foils, they ran off to rob disheveled senior citizens at Willow Valley.



“Me fail English?

That’s unpossible!”

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_

SAT: Indefinite Pronoun Agreement: ASNWERS

Occasionally there are some difficult words that we aren’t sure how to deal with:

Somebody, Anybody, Everybody, Nobody

Someone, Anyone, Everyone, No one

Either, Neither, Or, Nor They are SINGULAR

Any, Every, Each

Ex. Everyone should eat his / their lima beans because there are starving kids in Refton.

HIS refers back to Everyone (the antecedent).

But what about certain indefinite pronouns like *some*, *all*, and *enough*?

Some (of us) is / are going to order Chinese food and have a last night study session before our exam tomorrow.

WE [Some of us] are going . . .

Some (of the class) feels / feel that it deserves / they deserve an easy final exam.

It [Some of the class] feels . . .

*None* is a special case of contention. Originally, *none* meant *not one* or *not a one*, making it singular. But, we should treat none as the opposite of all and treat it the same way, with its number determined by the number in the modifier or referent.

None of the students *want* to leave American Lit in January.

None of the cake *was eaten* at Anthony’s bar mitzvah.

Read the following sentences and correct the errors in agreement. Look for both pronoun and consequential subject/verb errors. Not all sentences are incorrect.

1. **Neither** Cody **nor** Alex would admit that ~~they~~ he jammed the mechanical pencil into Mitchell’s ear.

2. **Both** Sami and Emily giggled when they saw Mr. Marsh tie Josh’s sagging pants up with an extension cord. (CORRECT)

3. **Everyone** in Mr. Dougherty’s Accelerated American Lit class wonder why ~~they don’t~~ he/she doesn’t get to read groovy poetry by Emily Dickinson.

4. After the class was attacked by a swarm of Louisiana mosquitoes during the hiking trip, Mr. Cooper gave **every** student ~~their~~ his / her / an injection of malaria repellent.

5. **Some** of the members of the chess team were called in to the office for bullying the football players. (CORRECT)

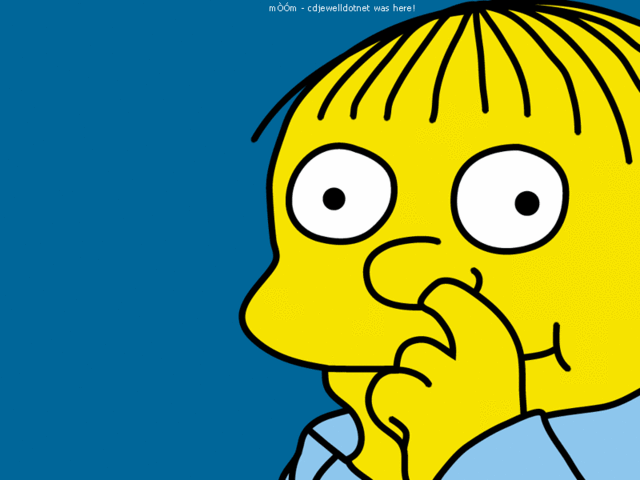
6. **None** of the chess team ~~were~~ was expelled for ~~their~~ its actions, but **all** of the football team was ridiculed by the student body.

7. If **any** boy on the wrestling team wants a new singlet, I can let ~~them~~ him have one.

8. **Every** girl on the cheerleading squad should choose five of her best pictures for the yearbook. (CORRECT)

9. Will **someone** lend me ~~their~~ his / her glass eye for the marble contest?

10. After **each** of the members of the fencing team received ~~their~~ his foils, ~~they~~ he / the team ran off to rob disheveled senior citizens at Willow Valley.



“Me fail English?

That’s unpossible!”