



# Grammar

## Noun-Pronoun Agreement

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## Noun-Pronoun Agreement

Anyone who wants to write complex, grammatically correct essays or pass the grammar section of the SAT or ACT must master noun-pronoun agreement. In order to attain accurate syntax, students must match nouns to nouns and nouns to pronouns in terms of singularity vs. plurality. Students, therefore, must first be able to identify subjects and objects—a skill worked on in the *Subjects, Verbs, and Objects*, *Prepositional Phrases*, and *Adverbial Phrases* worksheets. They must also be able to classify nouns and pronouns as singular or plural. This grammar worksheet begins by providing an explanation of three different types of pronouns (those serving as subjects, those serving as objects, and those showing possession), followed by a task requiring students to identify nouns and pronouns as singular or plural, and ending with a task requiring students to match nouns and their corresponding nouns or pronouns in terms of singularity or plurality. An answer key is included.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Noun-Noun and Noun-Pronoun Agreement

**Nouns** can be singular or plural.

**Pronouns** are words used to refer to nouns and can also be singular or plural.

Pronouns as subjects: I, you, he, she, it, they, we, this, that, those, these

**Examples:** I ate the apple.

She drove the car.

You wrote the letter.

Pronouns as objects: me, you, him, her, it, them, us, this, that, those, these

**Examples:** Sara taught us.

The dog bit me.

Rainy days depress him.

Henry ran to them.

Possessive pronouns tell to whom or to what something belongs.

Possessive pronouns: my, mine, your, yours, his, her, hers, its, their, theirs, our, ours

**Examples:** Give me his coat.

That notebook is hers.

Sam sees your car.

**Directions:** Identify the following nouns and pronouns as singular (S) or plural (P)

women \_\_\_\_ mechanic \_\_\_\_ they \_\_\_\_ each \_\_\_\_ we \_\_\_\_

you \_\_\_\_ fungi \_\_\_\_ curriculum \_\_\_\_ galaxy \_\_\_\_ us \_\_\_\_

assignments \_\_\_\_ your professors \_\_\_\_ Susan and I \_\_\_\_ swimmers \_\_\_\_

his \_\_\_\_ medicine \_\_\_\_ her pockets \_\_\_\_ their work \_\_\_\_ them \_\_\_\_

everyone \_\_\_\_ language \_\_\_\_ her happiness \_\_\_\_ it \_\_\_\_ my cats \_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Find the corresponding nouns and pronouns and make sure they match in terms of singularity and plurality.

- 1) The company had no organic dyes originally; they used extracts from various kinds of succulents to make dyes for their pottery.
- 2) The legitimacy of the museum exhibition featuring several paintings of landscapes was called into question when another museum's curator discovered that it was all made in Japan.
- 3) The garment, designed by one of the Greek artists who followed Alexander the Great on their quest to conquer surrounding countries, demonstrates a classic Grecian aesthetic.
- 4) The college professor, when questioned by a reporter, proposed the notion that attending graduate school may make young poets liable to become an unimaginative sluggard.
- 5) The local shopkeeper and his partner, Robert, agreed completely on how to run the store until he attended a workshop for small business owners and discovered a variety of strategies for increasing sales.
- 6) Few arguments grow as heated as that which flare up among immediate and extended relatives around the dinner table during the holidays.
- 7) Initially the prairie dogs all seemed identical, yet after several weeks of observation the scientists discovered that each had their own distinct mannerisms and personality.
- 8) Both Hector and Peter left the philosophy department and decided to become a psychologist after reading about Abraham Maslow's famous hierarchy of needs.
- 9) Anyone who suffers from serious food allergies will have trouble controlling the severe reactions that they experience after eating certain foods.
- 10) An ICU nurse typically works long shifts, because they are responsible for overseeing the care of seriously ill patients.

# Noun-Noun and Noun-Pronoun Agreement

## Answer Key

**Nouns** can be singular or plural.

**Pronouns** are words used to refer to nouns and can also be singular or plural.

Pronouns as subjects: I, you, he, she, it, they, we, this, that, those, these

**Examples:** I ate the apple.

She drove the car.

You wrote the letter.

Pronouns as objects: me, you, him, her, it, them, us, this, that, those, these

Examples: Sara taught us.

The dog bit me.

Rainy days depress him.

Henry ran to them.

**Possessive pronouns** tell to whom or to what something belongs.

Possessive pronouns: my, mine, your, yours, his, her, hers, its, their, theirs, our, ours

**Examples:** Give me his coat.

That notebook is hers.

Sam sees your car.

**Directions:** Identify the following nouns and pronouns as singular (S) or plural (P)

women P      mechanic S      they P      each S      we P

you S or P      fungi P      curriculum S      galaxy S      us P

assignments P      your professors P      Susan and I P      swimmers P

his S      medicine S      her pockets P      their work S      them P

everyone S      language S      her happiness S      it S      my cats P





**Directions:** Find the corresponding nouns and pronouns and make sure they match in terms of singularity and plurality. The correct nouns and pronouns are in parentheses.

**Note:** Students can attain noun-noun and noun-pronoun agreement within the following sentences in a variety of ways: by rewriting the sentences, by crossing out nouns and pronouns and writing the correct forms above, or orally. You will see that sometimes the difficulty lies not with determining if a noun is singular or plural but with figuring out which noun matches which pronoun or other noun.

- 1) The **company** (singular) had no organic dyes originally; **they** (it) used extracts from various kinds of succulents to make dyes for **their** (its) pottery.
- 2) The legitimacy of the museum exhibition featuring several **paintings** (plural) of landscapes was called into question when another museum's curator discovered that **it** (they) **was** (were) all made in Japan.
- 3) The garment, designed by one of the Greek artists who followed **Alexander the Great** (singular) on **their** (his) quest to conquer surrounding countries, demonstrates a classic Grecian aesthetic.
- 4) The college professor, when questioned by a reporter, proposed the notion that attending graduate school may make young **poets** (plural) liable to become **an unimaginative sluggard** (unimaginative sluggards).
- 5) **The local shopkeeper and his partner, Robert** (plural), agreed completely on how to run the store until **he** (they) attended a workshop for small business owners and discovered a variety of strategies for increasing sales.
- 6) Few **arguments** (plural) grow as heated as **that** (those) which flare up among immediate and extended relatives around the dinner table during the holidays.
- 7) Initially the prairie dogs all seemed identical, yet after several weeks of observation the scientists discovered that **each** (singular) had **their** (its) own distinct mannerisms and personality.
- 8) **Both Hector and Peter** (plural) left the philosophy department and decided to become **a psychologist** (psychologists) after reading about Abraham Maslow's famous hierarchy of needs.
- 9) **Anyone** (singular) who suffers from serious food allergies will have trouble controlling the severe reactions that **they** (she) experience(s) after eating certain foods. **Note:** appropriate pronouns to use when referring to a person (when the gender is unknown) include "he", "she", or "he or she".
- 10) An ICU **nurse** (singular) typically works long shifts, because **they** (he) **are** (is) responsible for overseeing the care of seriously ill patients.