

THE BEST ACT PREP COURSE EVER

**PRONOUN-ANTECEDENT
AGREEMENT**

ACT English: Problem Set

1. Although Ben did want to attend his physical therapy session, he knew it was very important that he arrive on time for them.
A. NO CHANGE
B. it
C. some
D. that
2. There are few things more desirable than ice cream on a hot summer day, but many people don't recognize their extremely high sugar content, so other alternatives, such as frozen fruit, are healthier.
A. NO CHANGE
B. their extremely high sugar contents
C. its extremely high sugar content
D. they are really high in sugar
3. Perhaps the book was fascinating and full of surprises, but the cover was so lackluster and the pages so wrinkled that they failed to attract attention of book buyers or make most teachers' summer reading lists.
A. NO CHANGE
B. them
C. those
D. it
4. Fast food restaurant empire McDonald's was founded in 1940, but it wasn't until their shift from barbecue to hamburger stand in 1948 sales began to climb and were further facilitated by hiring Ray Kroc as a franchise agent.
A. NO CHANGE
B. until they
C. for their
D. until its
5. Las Vegas features destination hotels that are so interesting and luxurious that some families visit the city just to see it, even if they do not plan to gamble.
A. NO CHANGE
B. them
C. that
D. one
6. When Claire looks at the online photos of the resort's beach and their sand, she is convinced that the resort is the perfect place to spend her spring break.
A. NO CHANGE
B. they're
C. its
D. it's
7. An interior designer looks at not only the aesthetics of furniture and decorations but also its sustainability and practicality, which makes clients very happy.
A. NO CHANGE
B. their
C. they're
D. it's
8. The dancer's graceful movements in their routine earned her a place in the national ballet company.
A. NO CHANGE
B. their routine,
C. her routine,
D. her routine
9. Dogs' heightened sense of smell is due to your increased number of olfactory receptors compared to those in humans.
A. NO CHANGE
B. their
C. it's
D. they're
10. A small record label gained overnight success in 2017 when it signed the teen pop star.
A. NO CHANGE
B. themselves
C. them
D. one
11. The non-traditional artist encouraged the students, himself to paint works for display in the exhibit.
A. NO CHANGE
B. students, themselves
C. students themselves
D. students himself
12. One way to avoid a poisonous mushroom is to look for white gills, a bulbous sack, or rings surrounding them.
A. NO CHANGE
B. these
C. one
D. it

13. Obeying traffic rules ensures the safety of drivers and its passengers.
- A. NO CHANGE
 - B. of drivers and it's
 - C. of drivers and their
 - D. of drivers and they're
14. The exemplary vocal range demonstrated in their auditions booked Anna a spot on the next Broadway musical.
- A. NO CHANGE
 - B. their auditions,
 - C. her auditions,
 - D. her auditions
15. In Northridge, California, a 6.7-magnitude earthquake struck early in the morning on January 17, 1994. They shook the entire San Fernando Valley and resulted in more than \$20 billion in damages.
- A. NO CHANGE
 - B. That they
 - C. Which
 - D. It
16. James continued his father's inquiries into the psychopathology of schizophrenia and their hallmark symptoms such as psychosis.
- A. NO CHANGE
 - B. they're
 - C. it's
 - D. its
17. Though the idea that chewing gum while studying to improve memory may seem like a myth, they can be proven with research.
- A. NO CHANGE
 - B. which
 - C. it
 - D. DELETE the underlined portion.
18. Her art portfolio fell from the shelf, scattering some unfinished pieces, sketches, and her final project and its contents.
- A. NO CHANGE
 - B. her final project and their
 - C. her final project; her
 - D. her final project,
19. Ella's thesis is based on T.S. Eliot's concept of the objective correlative and their relationship to the Imagist Movement.
- A. NO CHANGE
 - B. its
 - C. they're
 - D. it's
20. The new car smell is overpowering to the toddlers, but it can be quickly diminished with a different scented air freshener.
- A. NO CHANGE
 - B. they
 - C. you
 - D. DELETE the underlined portion.

ANSWER KEY

1. B 2. C 3. D 4. D 5. B 6. C 7. B 8. D 9. B 10. A 11. C 12. D 13. C 14. D
15. D 16. D 17. C 18. A 19. B 20. A

ANSWER EXPLANATIONS

1. B “It” replaces “them” because the object pronoun refers to the therapy session, so it needs to be singular.
2. C “Its” replaces “their” because the possessive pronoun refers to the ice cream, which is singular.
3. D “It” replaces “they” because the object pronoun refers to the book itself, so it needs to be singular. When do “pages” make a summer reading list? They don’t. Books do.
4. D “Its” replaces “their” because the possessive pronoun refers to the McDonald’s empire, which is singular.
5. B “Them” replaces “it” because the object pronoun refers to destination hotels, so it needs to be plural.
6. C “Its” replaces “their” because the possessive pronoun refers to the beach, which is singular. The photos do not own the “sand” -- the beach does -- or at a stretch maybe the resort would-- but beach makes the most sense so the answer is “its.” Remember “it’s” means “it is” -- imagine that apostrophe is a tiny “i”!
7. B “Their” replaces “its” because the possessive pronoun refers to the aesthetics and decorations, so it needs to be plural.
8. D “Her” replaces “their” because the possessive pronoun refers to one dancer, so it must be singular. (C) has a comma mistake (don’t put commas between subjects and verbs). You have to understand the sentence to get this right, or you might think that the routine belongs to the group she gained entrance to (its routine) or that it belongs to several dancers (their routine), but these dancers are not mentioned in this sentence-- you should, however, double check previous material to ensure that this girl is the only one whose routine this could be if you had this question in context on an ACT.
9. B “Their” replaces “your” because the possessive pronoun refers to the dogs, so it must be plural.
10. A The singular object pronoun accurately refers to the record label.
11. C The pronoun refers to the students, so it must be plural. The comma is not needed between “students” and “themselves” because the sentence is one independent clause.
12. D “It” replaces “them” because the object pronoun refers to the poisonous mushroom, which is singular.
13. C “Their” replaces “its” because the possessive pronoun refers to the people riding with the drivers, so it must be plural.
14. D “Her” replaces “their” because possessive pronoun refers to Anna, so it must be singular.
15. D “It” replaces “they” because the object pronoun refers to the earthquake, which is singular.
16. D “Its” replaces “their” because the possessive pronoun refers to schizophrenia, so it must be singular. Remember “inquiries” don’t have symptoms -- that doesn’t make sense.
17. C “It” replaces “they” because the possessive pronoun refers to the idea, which is singular. The “omit” creates an issue because the dependent clause cannot have a dangling phrase at the end with a verb and no subject. “Which” also creates an issue of dependent clauses that don’t have any independent clauses to connect to-- reread and hopefully you’ll hear the error.
18. A The singular possessive pronoun appropriately refers to the final project. (C) misuses a semicolon (see semicolons for more on that!), while (D) creates an awkward element after the comma at the end of the sentence.
19. B “Its” replaces “their” because the possessive pronoun refers to the concept of Ella’s thesis, which is singular.
20. A The singular object pronoun appropriately refers to the new car smell. (D) places an inappropriate comma between what would be compound verbs. Don’t use commas between compound verbs-- only between clauses with FANBOYS.