

# Rules for Pronoun- Antecedent Agreement

PLEASE TAKE NOTES.  
THERE WILL BE A QUIZ.

# Rules for Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement

- Pronoun - A word used to take the place of a noun
  - EX 1. Using SHE instead of Abbie
  - EX 2. Using THEM instead of Marley and Wyatt
- Antecedent - A word for which the pronoun stands
  - EX. 1. The pronoun SHE refers to and takes its meaning from Abbie, so Abbie is the antecedent of SHE.
  - EX. 2. The pronoun THEM refers to and takes its meaning from Marley and Wyatt, so Marley and Wyatt is the antecedent of THEY.  
(*They're also very good dogs. 😊*)

# Rules for Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement

- The pronoun and the antecedent must agree in number (singular or plural)
- If one is singular (SHE), the other needs to also be singular (Abbie).
- If one of plural (THEY), the other needs to also be plural (MARLEY AND WYATT).

# Rule #1

- These indefinite pronouns are always **SINGULAR**. (*Memorize these.*)

- |             |          |            |
|-------------|----------|------------|
| • ANOTHER   | ANYTHING | ANYBODY    |
| • ANYONE    | EACH     | EITHER     |
| • EVERYBODY | EVERYONE | EVERYTHING |
| • NEITHER   | NOBODY   | NO ONE     |
| • ONE       | SOMEBODY | SOMEONE    |

- Ex. Each of the students is required to wear his or her letter jacket.
- Ex. It looks like someone doesn't want a grade. His or her name is not written on the paper.

# RULE #2

- These indefinite pronouns are always **PLURAL**. *Memorize these.*

- BOTH
- MANY

- FEW
- SEVERAL

- Ex. Many students improved their scores.
- Ex. Both of the books wanted their pages to be read thoroughly.  
*(What literary device / term is used in this example?)*

# RULE #3

- *Now it gets a bit tricky...*
- These indefinite pronouns can be **plural OR singular**, depending on the context.

ALL

ANY

HALF

MORE

MOST

PART

SOME

Ex. All the furniture is in its original condition. (Singular)

Ex. Most of the girls have received their cookies for distribution. (Plural)

## RULE #3 (cont'd)

Let's go back to these examples.

Ex. All the furniture is in its original condition.

Ex. Most of the girls have received their cookies for distribution.

Why use its with all the furniture but use their with girls?

FURNITURE = OBJECTS

GIRLS = PEOPLE

## RULE #4

When a collective noun is used to refer to a group of people working together (such as team, committee, or army), use a **singular** pronoun.

Ex. 1. The team has been practicing its strategies all week.

Ex. 2. The class has been practicing its writing strategies all week.

Ex. 3. The swarm of bees suddenly changed its direction.

## RULE #4 (cont'd)

The team has been practicing its strategies all week.

The members of the team have been practicing their strategies all week.

- Team refers to one unit = singular = its
- Members refers to those on the team = plural = their

The class has been practicing its writing strategies all week.

The students in my class have been practicing their writing strategies all week.

- Class refers to one unit = singular = its
- Students refers to those in the class = plural = their

Now, you try:

Claude's sisters sailed  
(her/their/hers) sailboat  
out on the bay.

Now, you try:

Claude's sisters sailed  
(her / their / hers) sailboat  
out on the bay.

Now, you try:

Claude's sisters sailed  
(her / their / hers) sailboat out  
on the bay.

Why? Because sisters is  
plural

Now, you try:

The flying pig, though  
rarely seen, never misses  
( its/hers/her) favorite  
show.

Now, you try:

The flying pig, though rarely  
seen, never misses  
(**its**/hers/her) favorite show.

Now, you try:

The flying pig, though rarely seen, never misses (**its**/her/her) favorite show.

Why? Because pig is singular and also not a person. 😊

Now, you try:

The junior class decided  
that Jackson should be  
( its/their) president.

Now, you try:

The junior class decided  
that Jackson should be  
( **its** / their ) president.

Now, you try:

The junior class decided that Jackson should be (**its**/their) president.

Why? Because junior class is used as one collective group.