

Pronoun – Antecedent Agreement

VOCABULARY

Number

The number of things referred to or included in a word. If there's only a number of one—a book—this word is singular. If there's more than one—the books—the number is plural. Likewise for pronouns: "It" is singular; "They" is plural.

Antecedent

The noun which a pronoun substitutes for or refers to.

THE RULE

1. A pronoun must agree in number with its antecedent.
 2. Indefinite pronouns are singular (*everything, everyone, everybody, anybody, anyone, anything, each, either, neither, nobody, no one, nothing, somebody, someone, and something* take singular verbs and thus, must have singular pronouns as substitutes).
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PRACTICE *Fixing Pronoun – Antecedent Agreement*

Error: **Every** student enjoys **their** spring break when **they** have no homework.

Correction: **Every** student enjoys **her** spring break when **she** has no homework.

Correction: **All** students enjoy **their** spring breaks when **they** have no homework.

Error: **Everyone** at Cedarville complains about how the wind ruins **their** hair.

Correction: **Everyone** at Cedarville complains about how the wind ruins **his** hair.

Correction: Cedarville **students** complain about how the wind ruins **their** hair.