

A pronoun is a word that substitutes for a noun. Many pronouns have antecedents (a person, place, thing, or idea) that is replaced by a pronoun or other substitute in the same or another sentence. An antecedent is merely the noun to which a pronoun is referring. A pronoun and its antecedent agree when they are both singular or both plural.

Personal pronouns he, she, and it (and their possessive counterparts—his, her, and its) must agree in gender (masculine, feminine, or neutral) with their antecedents.

Example: Jane lost her glove, and she can't find it.

In this sentence, Jane is the antecedent of she, and glove is the antecedent of it.

Indefinite Pronouns
Indefinite pronouns refer to nonspecific persons or things. Even though some of the following may seem to have plural meanings, treat them as singular in formal English.

Indefinite Pronouns	
anybody	neither
anyone	nobody
anything	none
each	no one
either	nothing
everybody	somebody
everyone	someone
everything	something

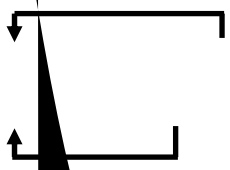
Example: Everyone discusses his or her thoughts.

When a plural pronoun mistakenly refers to a singular antecedent, you can usually choose one of three options for revising the sentence.

- xReplace the plural pronoun with "he or she" (or "his or her")
- xMake the antecedent plural
- xRewrite the sentence so that no problem of agreement exists

Collective Nouns

Collective nouns like jury, committee, audience, crowd, class, troop, family, team, and couple name a class or group. Ordinarily, the



Compound Antecedents

Treat most compound antecedents joined by and as plural.

Example: Joanne and John moved to the mountains, where they built a log cabin.

Compound antecedents joined by or and nor make the pronoun agree with the nearest antecedent.

Example: