

25.2

Pronoun and Antecedent Agreement (With Indefinite Pronouns and With Reflexive Pronouns)

• Practice 1

Agreement with Indefinite Pronouns Use a singular personal pronoun when the antecedent is a singular indefinite pronoun. Use a plural personal pronoun when the antecedent is a plural indefinite pronoun. With an indefinite pronoun that can be either singular or plural, agreement depends on the antecedent of the indefinite pronoun.

AGREEMENT WITH INDEFINITE PRONOUNS
<p style="text-align: center;">↖ ↗</p> <p>Each of the girls has <i>her</i> own room.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">↖ ↗</p> <p>Both of the boys rode <i>their</i> bikes.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">↖ ↗</p> <p>All of the cake has icing on <i>it</i>. (cake = singular antecedent)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">↖ ↗</p> <p>All of the boys wore <i>their</i> ties. (boys = plural antecedent)</p>

Agreement with Reflexive Pronouns A reflexive pronoun must agree with an antecedent that is clearly stated.

REFLEXIVE PRONOUN AGREEMENT	
Incorrect	Correct
The trouble between Sue and <i>myself</i> arose over jealousy.	The trouble between Sue and <i>me</i> arose over jealousy.

Exercise 1 Making Personal Pronouns Agree With Indefinite Pronouns. Write an appropriate personal pronoun to complete each sentence.

EXAMPLE: Each of the houses must have a street number on it.

1. Some of the wood has insects in _____.
2. Several of the players have purchased extra uniforms on _____ own.
3. Most of the coins have mold on _____.
4. Neither of those books has much useful information in _____.
5. Somebody from the League of Women Voters said _____ would speak to us.
6. Most of my friends get along well with _____ families.
7. Little of the yard has grass growing in _____.
8. Anybody from that Boy Scout troop will gladly show you _____ catalog.
9. Do all of the brownies have nuts in _____ ?
10. Many of those homes have alarm systems in _____.

Exercise 2 Using Reflexive Pronouns Correctly. Underline the misused reflexive pronoun in each sentence. Write the correct pronoun on the line.

EXAMPLE: Both Jim and yourself should come. you

1. Give that to myself when you're finished with it. _____
2. The Palmers invited the Youngs and ourselves for dinner. _____
3. Trudy and herself share a room. _____
4. Luis and myself will take the dog for a walk. _____
5. We hope Alice and yourself can go on the picnic. _____