

25.2

Pronoun and Antecedent Agreement (Four Special Problems) • Practice 1

Four Special Problems in Pronoun Agreement A personal pronoun should have a clear, single, close, and logical antecedent, stated or understood.

Problems	Corrections
<i>They</i> make a lot of mistakes in the paper.	Newspaper stories are not always accurate. That paper has many typographical errors.
Bruce told Danny <i>his</i> mother was sick.	Bruce told Danny that Danny's mother was sick. Bruce told Danny that Bruce's mother was sick.
When Joyce invited Anna and her family to come for the weekend, <i>she</i> forgot to check the date.	When Joyce invited Anna and her family ..., Joyce forgot to check the date when she invited Anna and ...
In English literature <i>you</i> will read Shakespeare and Milton.	A student of English literature will read Shakespeare and Milton.

Exercise 1 Solving Special Problems in Pronoun Agreement. Write the word or words from parentheses that best complete each sentence.

- EXAMPLE:** I thought the forecasters said it would rain today. (they, the forecasters)
- The form says _____ must mail the entries by June 1. (you, contestants)
 - Mike spoke to Danny as soon as _____ got home. (he, Mike)
 - Take the dishes out of the cartons and put _____ downstairs. (them, the cartons)
 - It was rude for _____ to boo the opposing pitcher. (them, the fans)
 - The children and their parents agreed that _____ would be home before dark. (they, the children)
 - After dinner _____ can enjoy dessert on the lakeside patio. (you, guests)
 - The winner was stunned when _____ gave her the news. (they, the judges)
 - Aunt Helen told Mom what _____ had been doing. (her children, our cousins)
 - In the last year _____ may choose more electives. (you, students)
 - Why do _____ always demonstrate oxygen masks? (they, flight attendants)

Exercise 2 Correcting Special Problems in Pronoun Agreement. Rewrite each sentence below to correct any problems in pronoun agreement.

EXAMPLE: Tasha told Annie that she must not be late for the party.

Tasha told Annie that Annie must not be late for the party.

- Why do they always make tests so hard?

- Sandy left the car in the garage without locking it.

- In that program, they expect you to do a lot of independent work.

- Paul told Steve that his bicycle had a flat tire.

- How do they make that product look so attractive?
