

Exercise on Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement

In the following pairs, one sentence is correct, and the other sentence has a pronoun-antecedent agreement error. Mark the CORRECT sentence.

1. A_____ Each of these computers has their drawbacks.

B_____ Each of these computers has its drawbacks.

Answer A is incorrect. *Each* is singular and *their* is plural.

Answer B is correct.

2. A_____ Anyone trying to reduce their salt intake should avoid canned foods.

B_____ People trying to reduce their salt intake should avoid canned foods.

Answer A is incorrect. *Anyone* is a singular indefinite pronoun. *Their* is plural.

Answer B is correct.

3. A_____ If job hunters want to make a good impression at an interview, he should be sure to arrive on time.

B_____ If job hunters want to make a good impression at an interview, they should be sure to arrive on time.

Answer A is incorrect. *Job hunters* is plural. *He* is singular.

Answer B is correct.

4. A_____ Neither of the children appreciates their parents' sacrifices.

B_____ Neither of the children appreciates his or her parents' sacrifices.

Answer A is incorrect. *Neither* is singular. *Their* is plural. Because *neither* refers to children, *his or her* is correct.

Answer B is correct.

5. A_____ At the men's bowling tournament, one of the bowlers hurt his ankle.

B_____ At the men's bowling tournament, one of the bowlers hurt their ankle.

Answer A is correct.

Answer B is incorrect. *One* is singular. *Their* is plural. Because *one* refers to a male bowler, the correct pronoun is *his*.

6. A_____ Either of the men could have given his seat to the elderly woman.

B_____ Either of the men could have given their seat to the elderly woman.

Answer A is correct.

Answer B is incorrect. *Either* is singular. *Their* is plural. Because *either* refers to men, the correct pronoun is *his*.

7. A_____ The restaurant is about to celebrate its fifth anniversary.

B_____ The restaurant is about to celebrate their fifth anniversary.

Answer A is correct.

Answer B is incorrect. *Restaurant* is singular. *Their* is plural.

8. A_____ A person who cares about the environment will recycle their aluminum cans.

B_____ People who care about the environment will recycle their aluminum cans.

Answer A is incorrect. *Person* is singular. *Their* is plural.

Answer B is correct.

9. A_____ Neither Bob nor Bill thought he had been treated fairly.

B_____ Neither Bob nor Bill thought they had been treated fairly.

Answer A is correct.

Answer B is incorrect. In the *neither...nor* construction if the antecedent (the noun or pronoun) that is closer to the verb is singular, a singular pronoun is required. Because *Bill* is a singular, masculine noun, the pronoun is *he*.

10. A_____ Everyone brought their pencils to the exam.

B_____ Everyone brought his or her pencil to the exam.

Answer A is incorrect. *Everyone* is singular. *Their* is plural.

Answer B is correct. *The students brought their pencils to the exam* is another correct answer and avoids the awkward *his or her* construction.