



# Menifee Valley Campus Writing Center

## Directed Learning Activity: Pronoun/Antecedent Agreement and Point of View

Mount San Jacinto Community College,  
Menifee Valley Campus  
Writing Center

Pronouns are words that take the place of nouns. We use pronouns so that we do not have to repeat certain words over and over as we speak or write. See the example below:

Sherry left Sherry's purse in Sherry's car, so Sherry has to run back to the parking lot. Sherry will be back soon.

Sherry left her purse in her car, so she has to run back to the parking lot. She will be back soon.

When using pronouns, it is important to make sure the pronouns you are using “agree” (match, if you will) the nouns you are replacing. **They must agree in number** (if the noun is singular, the pronoun must be singular; if the noun is plural, the pronoun must be plural), **point of view** (if the noun is first person, the pronoun must be first person, etc.), and **gender** (if the noun is feminine, the pronoun must be feminine; if the noun is masculine, the pronoun must be masculine).

Use this table as you are working on this activity.

1<sup>st</sup> person (sing.)    1<sup>st</sup> person (plural)    2<sup>nd</sup> person (s/p)    3<sup>rd</sup> person (sing.)    3<sup>rd</sup> person (plural)

I	we	you	he, she, it	they
me	us	you	him, her, it	them
my, mine	our, ours	your, yours	his, her, hers	their, theirs

You will need a computer. Go to <http://leo.stcloudstate.edu/grammar/pronante.html> and read the rules for pronoun agreement. Also read the section “Grammar Conflicts.” Make sure to look carefully at the corrections that are made. Keep this web page up for reference when completing the activity at the end of this worksheet.

Another type of pronoun is called the *indefinite* pronoun. Most indefinite pronouns are singular. Here is a list of singular indefinite pronouns:

anybody    anything    anyone    somebody    something    someone  
everybody    everything    everyone    neither    either    each

Even though you may picture many people when you think of the word “everybody,” the word “everybody” is still singular. Try to think of “everybody” as ONE unit. Also, it helps to remember that the endings to these words are all singular –body, -thing, and –one. The words “neither,” “either,” and “each” sometimes precede plural nouns (as in “each of the dancers”), but remember that it is the indefinite pronoun that is being replaced, not the noun that follows the indefinite pronoun. Here is an example:

**Neither** of my brothers has **his** own car.

“Brothers” is a plural noun, but because we are talking about each one individually, we are treating them as individuals. The word “neither” is actually the word we are replacing with the pronoun “his.” “Neither is singular and “his” is singular; we have agreement.

**Now, with this sheet as a reference and the web page as a reference, find the errors in agreement in the sentences below. There will be errors in number and point of view. Cross out the incorrect pronouns and replace them with correct pronouns. I have done the first one for you.**

1. For this performance, each of the female dancers needs to wear a red dress and a red flower in their hair.
2. We always hike in the redwood forests when we go up north because you feel so peaceful and calm in the cool natural environment.
3. Please make an announcement that someone left their car lights on.
4. Each one of the car salesmen made their quota for the month and earned a nice bonus.
5. The elderly couple chose Health Net insurance because you get to choose your own doctors.
6. An educated student is one that takes advantage of all the resources available to them.
7. My favorite type of restaurant is the one that gives you lots of choices.
8. Everyone in the choir forgot their music, so the director had to make an extra set of copies.
9. Many students find grammar rules difficult to master; the best plan of action for you is to use the LRC’s resources.
10. My parents enjoy Pepe’s Mexican restaurant because the servers treat you like royalty.

Now, take this worksheet to a tutor in the writing center and go over your answers together. Make sure to ask any questions you may have. If this is a required assignment for a class, sign below and return this to your instructor.

Student’s signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Tutor's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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