Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement A

A pronoun usually refers to a noun or another pronoun called its antecedent.

A pronoun should agree in number and gender with its antecedent.

**EXAMPLES**

Dolores lost her scarf.
The snake shed its skin.
Shoppers filled their baskets with food.
Each one of the teenagers paid for his or her ticket.

**EXERCISE A** In each sentence, underline the pronoun or pronouns in parentheses that agree in number and gender with the antecedent.

Example 1. High in the tree’s branches, the bird built (their, its) nest.

1. Billy loaned (their, his) bike to Phillip.
2. The captain of the girls’ softball team accepted (her, his or her) award.
3. In the evening the chickens return to (its, their) roost.
4. The cats sunned (itself, themselves) contentedly in the grassy yard.
5. The microscopes in the science lab still have (its, their) price tags attached.
6. The workers at the pizza parlor were wearing (its, their) new uniforms.
7. On Father’s Day, the children performed a one-act play for (his or her, their) dad.
8. Carpenter ants sometimes make (its, their) home in your home.
9. The puppy entertained (itself, themselves) with an old tennis ball.
10. The hamster slept in (its, their) empty food dish.

**EXERCISE B** On each of the lines provided, write a pronoun or a pair of pronouns that will correctly complete the sentence.

Example 1. The river overflowed ____________ banks.

11. The siblings planned a surprise party for ______________ parents’ anniversary.
12. The pig raised ______________ voice in a surprised squeal.
13. The captains of each team accepted ______________ award.
14. Julie was proud of ______________ older sister.
15. The young boy told ______________ not to be afraid of the dark.
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EXERCISE A
1. Snow (don’t, doesn’t) fall in the tropics, except at high elevations.
2. Hurricanes (don’t, doesn’t) travel very far inland.
3. (Don’t, Doesn’t) tornadoes look like funnel-shaped clouds?
4. You (don’t, doesn’t) want to get near a tornado.
5. A rainbow usually (don’t, doesn’t) appear on a bright, sunny day.
6. (Don’t, Doesn’t) rainbows form from the reflection of light in rain or fog?
7. It (don’t, doesn’t) rain much in the Atacama Desert in Chile.
8. Without lightning, thunder (don’t, doesn’t) occur.
9. (Don’t, Doesn’t) sleet form from frozen rain?
10. I (don’t, doesn’t) enjoy shoveling the walks after a snowstorm.

EXERCISE B
11. lockers 12. dog
13. you 14. he
15. plants

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EXERCISE A
1. his 2. her 3. their 4. themselves 5. their
6. their 7. their 8. their 9. itself 10. its
11. their 12. her 13. their 14. his 15. her

EXERCISE B
11. their 12. their
13. their [or its]
14. her
15. himself [or us or them or her or him or you]

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EXERCISE A
1. their 2. his or her 3. their 4. its 5. their 6. its 7. their 8. their 9. his or her 10. its
11. their 12. their 13. his or her 14. their 15. his or her 16. his or her 17. their 18. their 19. our 20. their

EXERCISE B
Pronouns may vary.
11. their 13. they 15. they
12. his or her 14. her

Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement C, p. 157

EXERCISE A
1. their 2. her 3. their 4. his 5. his or her
6. they 7. its 8. their 9. her 10. his or her

EXERCISE B
Pronouns may vary.
11. their 13. they 15. they
12. his or her 14. her

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EXERCISE A
1. their [or its] 2. their 3. its 4. themselves 5. their
6. its 7. themselves 8. their 9. their 10. themselves

EXERCISE B
Answers may vary slightly.
11. its 12. their 13. their [or its]
14. their 15. themselves