

# Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement A

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

**17p.** 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.

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

- The siblings planned a surprise party for \_\_\_\_\_ parents' anniversary.
- The pig raised \_\_\_\_\_ voice in a surprised squeal.
- The captains of each team accepted \_\_\_\_\_ award.
- Julie was proud of \_\_\_\_\_ older sister.
- The young boy told \_\_\_\_\_ not to be afraid of the dark.

**Subject-Verb Agreement K, p. 154****EXERCISE A**

- Snow (*don't, doesn't*) fall in the tropics, except at high elevations.
- Hurricanes (*don't, doesn't*) travel very far inland.
- (*Don't, Doesn't*) tornadoes look like funnel-shaped clouds?
- You (*don't, doesn't*) want to get near a tornado.
- A rainbow usually (*don't, doesn't*) appear on a bright, sunny day.
- (*Don't, Doesn't*) rainbows form from the reflection of light in rain or fog?
- It (*don't, doesn't*) rain much in the Atacama Desert in Chile.
- Without lightning, thunder (*don't, doesn't*) occur.
- (*Don't, Doesn't*) sleet form from frozen rain?
- I (*don't, doesn't*) enjoy shoveling the walks after a snowstorm.

**EXERCISE B**

- |             |         |            |
|-------------|---------|------------|
| 11. lockers | 13. you | 15. plants |
| 12. dog     | 14. he  |            |

**Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement A, p. 155****EXERCISE A**

- |               |           |
|---------------|-----------|
| 1. his        | 6. their  |
| 2. her        | 7. their  |
| 3. their      | 8. their  |
| 4. themselves | 9. itself |
| 5. their      | 10. its   |

**EXERCISE B**

- their
- its [*or his or her*]
- their
- her
- himself [*or us or them or her or him or you*]

**Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement B, p. 156****EXERCISE**

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

**Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement C, p. 157****EXERCISE A**

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

**EXERCISE B***Pronouns may vary.*

- |                |          |          |
|----------------|----------|----------|
| 11. their      | 13. they | 15. they |
| 12. his or her | 14. her  |          |

**Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement D, p. 158****EXERCISE A**

- |                            |                |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| 1. their [ <i>or its</i> ] | 6. its         |
| 2. their                   | 7. themselves  |
| 3. its                     | 8. their       |
| 4. themselves              | 9. their       |
| 5. their                   | 10. themselves |

**EXERCISE B***Answers may vary slightly.*

- |                             |                |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| 11. its                     | 14. their      |
| 12. their                   | 15. themselves |
| 13. their [ <i>or its</i> ] |                |