

# Grammar Handout 066

## Pronouns and Antecedents

A pronoun is used in place of a noun. There are many different kinds of pronouns; three of them are:

### Personal:

These pronouns refer to specific people or things. They may be singular (*I, me, you, she, her, he, him, it*) or plural (*we, us, you, they, them*).

### Possessive:

These pronouns indicate ownership. They also may be singular (*my, mine, your, yours, her, hers, his, its*) or plural (*our, ours, your, yours, their, theirs*).

### Indefinite:

These pronouns refer to nonspecific people or things. Most of these pronouns are singular (*each, either, neither, one, everyone, everybody, no one, nobody, anyone, anybody, someone, somebody*), but some are plural (*few, both, some, many, several*).

When a pronoun is used in place of a specific or nonspecific noun, that noun is its **antecedent**. The pronoun and antecedent must agree in number (singular or plural).

We saw our dog running down the street.

Everyone forgot his book.

Several of the students did not do their homework.

The pronouns *he, him, his, she, her, hers, it, and its* must also agree in gender (feminine, masculine, or neuter).

Danny saw his mother at the store.

### Remember:

- If the antecedent of a pronoun is singular, the pronoun is singular.
- If the antecedent of a pronoun is plural, the pronoun is plural.
- If the antecedent is an indefinite pronoun, it is grammatically correct to use a masculine pronoun to refer to it. However, you may also use a feminine pronoun, or you may use both a masculine and feminine pronoun: Everyone has his or her book.

### Cross out the incorrect pronoun:

1. Everyone should work hard at (their, his or her) job.
2. Several of the boys willingly did (his, their) share of the camp duties.

3. Has each of you (his, their) own ticket?
4. If anyone has an extra pen, will (she or he, they) lend it to me?
5. Each member was asked to bring (his or her, their) contribution today.
6. Many of the girls have had (her, their) vacation.
7. Someone has left (his, their) automobile in the driveway.
8. If each of the singers will do (his or her, their) best, our chorus will win.
9. Both of the judges gave (his, their) reason for (his, their) decision.
10. Every girl did (her, their) best to make the program a success.
11. Never judge anyone entirely by (his or her, their) looks.
12. Each student should do (his or her, their) own work.
13. Everyone should bring (his, their) own books to class.
14. Both of the girls take (her, their) own equipment on camping trips.
15. Not a member of the crew shirked (his, their) duty.
16. Each one has a right to (his or her, their) own opinion in this matter.
17. Carlos gave each of the workers (his, their) pay.
18. Each girl in the club gave (her, their) report.
19. Few can be successful in (his, their) home town.
20. Someone has left (his, their) raincoat.
21. Neither one has a mistake in (his, their) spelling test.
22. Has each student received (his or her, their) report card?
23. If each of you will learn (his, their) part, our play will be a success.
24. Every pupil is expected to do (his, their) best.
25. We knew that every man at the meeting expressed (his, their) opinion.