Agreement: Pronoun/Antecedent Name: Period:

Notes/Rules

Rule I. All pronouns have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. An ***antecedent*** is the word which the pronoun \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

B. Example: Barbara rode her bike home from school.

The ***antecedent*** for her is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (the person to whom the word ‘her’ refers).  
Rule II. A pronoun agrees with its antecedent in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (3rd person singular)

1. Use a ***singular*** pronoun to replace a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ antecedent.

Example: The dog wagged (its, their) tail.

1. Use a ***plural*** pronoun to replace a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ antecedent.

Example: The salespeople sold (his, their) own merchandise.

C. Prepositional phrases \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ affect whether a pronoun or its antecedent is

singular or plural.

Example: Each of the members gave (his, their) advice to the president. **IT WON’T SOUND RIGHT**, but it makes sense. ***Each*** is a singular pronoun. We use it with a singular verb (Do I want chocolate or vanilla? Each makes me happy.) Therefore, we need to choose the singular pronoun to go with it when it is an antecedent.

1. Be careful of ***indefinite pronouns*** when they are antecedents.

**Singular Indefinite Pronouns (remember?)**

**another each everything one**

**anybody either neither somebody**

**anyone everybody nobody someone**

**anything everyone no one something**

Example: No one wants to let go of (his, their) own ideas.

**Plural Indefinite Pronouns**

both few many several

Example: Few of the girls can sell (her, their) tickets by Friday.

**These Pronouns Can Be Either Singular or Plural**

all any most none some

Example: None of the stores offer (its, their) merchandise at a discount.

None of the building has had (its, their) inspection yet.

1. Look carefully at ***compound antecedents*** to determine if they are singular or plural.
   1. Plural: Jack and Jesse have taken (his, their) vacations already.
   2. Singular: The lanterns ***or*** the **flashlight** needs to have (its, their) batteries checked. (Closer ant.)

F. Use the appropriate gender for masculine and feminine antecedents. When gender is not specified, use either masculine or feminine or both (he or she) —just don’t use plural unless you rephrase the sentence with a plural antecedent. Example: Each one of the girls forgot (her, their) coat.

When a speaker addresses a group, (he or she, they) should speak clearly.

Almost everyone likes to have (his or her, their) work praised.

Pronoun/Antecedent Agreement Worksheet 1 Name:

Write an ***A*** over the antecedent for the pronoun choice in parentheses, then write ***S*** or ***P*** next to the number of the sentence to indicate ***singular*** or ***plural***. Finally, circle the pronoun that agrees with its antecedent.

\_\_\_\_ 1. A reporter talked to Mrs. Bea Zwack after (her, their) home was struck by a tornado.

\_\_\_\_ 2. Jack Zwack spent most of (his, their) time cleaning up the yard.

\_\_\_\_ 3. Nick, Mack, and Patty Zwack are staying with (his or her, their) neighbors for the time being.

\_\_\_\_ 4. The Zwacks now have a healthy respect for tornadoes and (its, their) power.

\_\_\_\_ 5. The reporter finally submitted (her, their) assignment to the editor of the paper.

\_\_\_\_ 6. The newspaper featured tornadoes on (its, their) front page.

\_\_\_\_ 7. Subscribers that read the story and saw the pictures realize that (he or she, they) could have been the

victims of the storm.

\_\_\_\_ 8. A mature person is responsible for (his or her, their) actions.

\_\_\_\_ 9. The detective told (his or her, their) chief that (he or she, they) had caught the criminal.

\_\_\_\_ 10. Each of the Olympic champions proudly wore (his, their) medal.

\_\_\_\_ 11. Either the professional craftsmen or the amateur woodworkers enjoyed working with (his or

her, their) hands.

\_\_\_\_ 12. Almost anybody who has worked with wood would say that woodworking soothes (his or her, their)

spirit.

\_\_\_\_ 13. Each of the Hopi Indian fathers carved (his, their) daughter a kachina doll from cottonwood root.

\_\_\_\_ 14. Every one of the Iroquois carvers used basswood for (his or her, their) healing ritual mask.

\_\_\_\_ 15. One of the wooden masks from the Pacific Northwest shows by (its, their) detail the customs of the

tribe.

\_\_\_\_ 16. Each of my sisters has tried (her, their) hand at whittling.

\_\_\_\_ 17. Neither cut (herself, themselves).

\_\_\_\_ 18. Everybody used to buy (his or her, their) tobacco at the store with the carved wooden Native

American in front.

\_\_\_\_ 19. Anybody who likes (his or her, their) home uncluttered with detail would appreciate the simple

wooden furniture made by the Quakers.

\_\_\_\_ 20. Everyone, including Queen Victoria, wished (he or she, they) could own the fancy Victorian furniture

painstakingly carved by William Bartels.

Pronoun/Antecedent Agreement Worksheet 2 Name:

Write an ***A*** over the antecedent for the pronoun choice in parentheses, then write ***S*** or ***P*** next to the number of the sentence to indicate ***singular*** or ***plural***. Finally, circle the pronoun that agrees with its antecedent.

\_\_\_\_ 1. If anyone cares to leave, (he or she, they) may do so now.

\_\_\_\_ 2. One of the boys forgot (his, their) lunch.

\_\_\_\_ 3. All the actresses brought (her, their) scripts.

\_\_\_\_ 4. Neither of them volunteered (his or her, their) services.

\_\_\_\_ 5. Neither of the boys did (his, their) homework today.

\_\_\_\_ 6. Will everyone please serve (himself or herself, themselves)?

\_\_\_\_ 7. Each of the women did (her, their) best.

\_\_\_\_ 8. Both Jack and Jill fetched (his or her, their) share of water for the day.

\_\_\_\_ 9. Every student must do (his or her, their) own work.

\_\_\_\_ 10. Has everyone completed (his or her, their) project?

\_\_\_\_ 11. Most of the cargo plane was filled before (its, their) flight.

\_\_\_\_ 12. Many a person has to work (his or her, their) way through college.

\_\_\_\_ 13. Has either the boy or the girls brought (his or her, their) own skates with them?

\_\_\_\_ 14. Helen and Joyce did (her, their) best.

\_\_\_\_ 15. Each of the men did (his, their) duty.

\_\_\_\_ 16. Will everyone please open (his or her, their) books to the Foreword?

\_\_\_\_ 17. Both Marie and Joan dressed up for (her, their) pictures today.

\_\_\_\_ 18. Each of the NFL stars is responsible for (his, their) conduct in public.

\_\_\_\_ 19. All the Girl Scouts met (her, their) quota for selling cookies.

\_\_\_\_ 20. Each of the boys would like (his, their) topic to be chosen.

\_\_\_\_ 21. One of the girls lost all of (her, their) books.

\_\_\_\_ 22. I expect everyone to pay (his or her, their) dues on time.

\_\_\_\_ 23. Whichever of you has (his or her, their) money may settle this account now.

\_\_\_\_ 24. Many a lonely kid wishes (he or she, they) could find a good friend in middle school.

\_\_\_\_ 25. A person may conceal (his or her, their) true feelings, but not for very long.

\_\_\_\_ 26. Will either of the members who brought a friend with (him or her, them) please step forward?

\_\_\_\_ 27. Every tribe has (its, their) own local customs.

\_\_\_\_ 28. When everyone minds (his or her, their) own business, life is usually much more pleasant.

\_\_\_\_ 29. Neither Millie nor Molly will give (her, their) recitals today.

\_\_\_\_ 30. The search for candidates who have (his or her, their) credentials in good order must continue.

Pronoun/Antecedent Agreement Worksheet 3 Name:

Do whatever you need to do to choose the pronoun that agrees with its antecedent. MANY correct answers will sound incorrect, and vice versa, but you can’t even count on that. Be sure you can explain your reasoning in connection with one or more of the rules in your notes.

\_\_\_\_ 1. Groucho and Chico and Harpo were up to (his, their) usual antics in a movie called *A Night at the*

*Opera.*

\_\_\_\_ 2. In the Marx Brothers’ movies, either Groucho or Chico swindles (his, their) way across the screen.

\_\_\_\_ 3. Groucho’s ridiculous eyebrows and foxy slouch have (its, their) place in comic history.

\_\_\_\_ 4. His shoddy frock and mobile cigar have also brought (its, their) share of laughs.

\_\_\_\_ 5. Chico, in his outgrown jacket, or Harpo, in his oversized raincoat, has (his, their) own comic style.

\_\_\_\_ 6. In the original comedy team, Groucho and Chico and Harpo were joined by Zeppo, a fourth brother,

who worked with (him, them).

\_\_\_\_ 7. In a classic Marx Brothers’ scene, Chico and Groucho argue about a contract which (he, they) literally

tear apart.

\_\_\_\_ 8. Harpo’s shrill whistle and strange sign language are interpreted by Chico, who understands (it, them).

\_\_\_\_ 9. Neither reality nor reason has (its, their) place in Marx Brothers comedy.

\_\_\_\_ 10. Either outrageous action or zany dialogue makes (its, their) criticism of “polite society.”

\_\_\_\_ 11. The three rascals and several ship’s servants and a huge trunk share a humorous scene in which (it,

they) are squeezed into a tiny stateroom.

\_\_\_\_ 12. Groucho’s greasepaint moustache and Harpo’s curly pink hair bring snickers by (itself, themselves.

\_\_\_\_ 13. In my school either the teacher or one of the students will dress up in a Marx Brothers costume every

year to make (his or her, their) mark on the school comedy scene.

\_\_\_\_ 14. Each of the brothers would finally find (his, their) own niche in the annals of classic film.

\_\_\_\_ 15. Unfortunately, every year either my brothers or my neighbor will try to solidify (his, their) own reputation

in the neighborhood by attempting a Marx Brothers stunt.

Pronoun/Antecedent Agreement Name: Period:

Additional Practice 1

**Underline the antecedent for each pronoun choice, and then circle the pronoun that agrees with its antecedent.**

1. Did everyone in the play remember (his, their) lines?

2. If anyone finds a glasses case, will (he, they) please deliver it to the Lost and Found Office.

3. Neither of the boys could find (his, their) way without a compass.

4. Every student in our class had (his, their) picture taken for the Chronicle.

5. In our section of woodland, every bird builds (its, their) own nest except the catbird.

6. Dan has always admired a person who can keep (his, their) head in an emergency.

7. If you have finished either of those magazines, will you lend (it, them) to me?

8. Every member of our family has (his, their) favorite television comedian.

9. The committee has disagreed about (its, their) next move.

10. Each of the groups will have (its, their) convention here.

11. That package of clothes is heavy, so don't lift (it, them).

12. If any one of the sisters needs a ride to church, (she, they) can call me.

13. Kathryn and Alex are concerned about (her, their) welfare in this course.

14. Did Sam or Chris want (his, their) hair cut?

15. Somebody left (his, their) trash on the road.

16. At the end of the movies, each of the couples cleared up (its, their) misunderstanding.

17. The Washington team was optimistic; (they, it) took advantage of every break.

18. When a person is in trouble, (they, he) may resort to anything.

19. The new style of hats is supposed to be popular, but I don't like (them, it).

20. One has to live with (oneself, themselves), so always be sure to choose the correct pronoun!

Pronoun/Antecedent Agreement Name: Period:

Additional Practice 2

**Proofread each sentence for errors in pronoun/antecedent agreement. Correct the incorrect pronouns. Write a *C* next to sentences that use correct pronoun/antecedent agreement.**

1. One of the boys had tears in their eyes.
2. Somebody left their books on the counter.
3. A student should see an advisor if they have any questions.
4. Any injured athlete should see a trainer as soon as they are injured.
5. Many of us love the movies, but you seldom have time to go to them.
6. Everyone has his or her own way of studying.
7. Teachers are responsible for providing their students with accurate grades.
8. Someone had blocked the driveway with their car.
9. When I asked the teacher why I failed the test, he said that I had not studied the proper material.

10. Each woman must do their best to take care of their health.

11. Each of the apartment owners had his or her apartment repainted.

12. As the weather got colder everyone wished they had brought a coat.

13. Everyone gets angry when someone accuses him or her of voting for the wrong candidate.

14. Jill told Reagan that she had to get more sleep.

15. A person needs to learn how to read or you will not do very well in school.

16. The children insisted on doing it theirselves.

17. Someone forgot their ticket to the play *Captain Grammar’s Lost Pronoun*; he or she will be so sad.

18. If each of the Boy Scouts does their best, they will get the job done on time.

19. I bought new eyeglasses, and they really make me look different.

20. Americans today want to work to make this a better country for himself or herself and their children

to live in.