In this chapter, you’ll learn and practice how to:

1. Identify pronouns and antecedents
2. Determine the correct pronoun to use, according to its antecedent
3. Ensure pronouns clearly identify their antecedents
4. Ensure pronouns agree in number with their antecedents

Pronouns refer back to antecedents, which are nouns.

Who is a subject; whom is an object.

Possessive pronouns do not take apostrophes.

Compound pronouns can cause problems.

Reflexive pronouns must have antecedents.

Singular indefinite pronouns require singular verbs; plural indefinite pronouns require plural verbs.

What Are Pronouns and Antecedents?

**Pronouns** are words that take the place of nouns or other pronouns. **Antecedents** are the nouns (persons, places, things, ideas) the pronouns stand for.

Raul isn’t in class because he had to go to the hospital.

Olivia hopes to finish her paper today. She is working on her final draft.

Sometimes a pronoun refers to an antecedent in a preceding sentence.

These words can be used as pronouns:
Types of Pronouns

Pronouns are divided into six categories:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demonstrative</th>
<th>Interrogative</th>
<th>Reflexive and Intensive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Relative</td>
<td>Personal</td>
<td>Indefinite</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Demonstrative Pronouns

Demonstrative pronouns point out (demonstrate) a definite person, place, or thing.

- **This** refers to a singular noun that is nearby.
- **That** refers to a singular noun that is farther away.
- **These** refers to a plural noun that is nearby.
- **Those** refers to a plural noun that is farther away.

CAREFUL! Using the words here or there immediately after demonstrative pronouns is nonstandard and not acceptable in academic writing.
23.1 Identifying Demonstrative Pronouns

Directions: Read the following sentences and underline the demonstrative pronoun and cross out any incorrect words in each.

1. That is the information I’ve tried to find.
2. Are those your papers?
3. This was where the house stood.
4. I’ll give these to the officials.
5. That car you’re driving is new, isn’t it?
6. Please return this to the division secretary.
7. Is that the paper you needed to copy?
8. This paper is going to get an A!
9. Louisa didn’t realize she had left those in the car.
10. I’ll never go to that gas station again.

Relative Pronouns

Relative pronouns connect (relate) a subordinate clause to the rest of the sentence.

who, whom, that, which, whoever, whomever, whichever

Relative pronoun

Correct: That man, who is my cousin, will give me a ride back to campus.

Who is my cousin is a subordinate clause (it has a subject and verb but cannot stand alone as a sentence). The pronoun who relates the clause back to man.
Many writers have a problem determining when to use the relative pronouns who or whom whenever or whomever.

**THE FIX #1**

Determine if the pronoun is used as the subject or object of the clause.

Isolate the clause who or whom is in. If the pronoun is used as a subject, use who; if it is used as an object, use whom.

*Makayla wondered (who, whom) had called.*

Isolate the clause (who, whom) had called.

The word you need is the subject of the clause, so use who.

*Brandon had called (who, whom)?*

This sentence has only one clause, so isolating it is easy:

Brandon had called (who, whom).

The word you need is the object of the clause, so use whom.

The same rule holds for whoever or whomever. If you need a subject, use whoever; if you need an object, use whomever.

**THE FIX #2**

Substitute he or him.

Isolate the clause who or whom is in. Rearrange the words to form a declarative sentence (a sentence that states a fact). Then substitute he or him for who or whom. If your ear tells you that he is correct, use who; if your ear tells you that him is correct, use whom.
Read the sentence
Raul asked (who, whom) he would be paired with for the presentation.
and isolate the clause.
(who, whom) he would be paired with for the presentation.
Rearrange the wording into a declarative sentence.
He would be paired with (who, whom) for the presentation.
Substitute he and him and let your ear determine which sounds correct.
Incorrect  He would be paired with he for the presentation.
Correct    He would be paired with him for the presentation.
Because him is correct, you would use whom in the sentence:
Raul asked whom he would be paired with for the presentation.
The same rule holds for whoever and whomever. If you can substitute he, use whoever; if you can substitute him, use whomever.

23.2 Using Correct Relative Pronouns: Who or Whom

Directions: Read the following sentences and underline the correct relative pronoun in each.
1. Professor Randall, who/whom I respect, is speaking at an assembly in Strawn Auditorium.
2. My roommate, who/whom is from Haiti, will not go home for Thanksgiving.
3. The woman who/whom sits beside me in class has three children.
4. The woman's children, who/whom she speaks of often, are proud that she's in college.
5. I'm conducting a survey with Heather, who/whom I just met.
6. The student who/whom is in line has already called in an order.
7. I've often wondered who/whom was the architect for the football field.
8. For this assignment, we can pair with whoever/whomever we want.
9. Chef John Abbott, who/whom is an adjunct professor here, recently appeared on television.
10. Our college's Quick Start program provides college courses for high school students who/whom want to begin classes early.
Interrogative Pronouns

In questions, **interrogative pronouns** take the place of unnamed nouns.

These refer only to people

- Who
- Whom
- Whose
- Whoever
- Whomever
- Whosoever

These refer to people, places, or things

- What
- Which
- Whatever
- Whichever
- Whosoever
- Whosoever

Whosoevers and whomsoevers are archaic words not used often today.

**Whom did Desiree call yesterday afternoon?**

Whom takes the place of an unnamed person.

**What will Rafael bring to help repair the computer?**

What takes the place of an unnamed thing.

---

**THE PROBLEM**

When to use **who** or **whom**

When composing questions, many writers have a problem determining whether to use

- *who* or *whom*  
- *whoever* or *whomever*

**THE FIX #1**

Determine if the pronoun is used as the subject or object

Isolate the clause **who** or **whom** is in. Rearrange the wording to create a declarative sentence (a sentence that states a fact) rather than a question. If the pronoun is used as a subject, use **who**; if it is used as an object, use **whom**.
(Who/Whom) did you wish to speak with?
If you rearrange the wording, you have
You wish to speak with (who/whom).
The word you need is the object of the preposition with, so use whom.

The same rule holds for whoever/whomever. If you need a subject, use whoever; if you need an object, use whomever.

Will you copy the e-mail to (whoever/whomever) requests it?
If you rearrange the wording, you have
You will copy the e-mail to (whoever/whomever) requests it.
The word you need is the subject of the clause (whoever/whomever) requests it, so use whoever.

THE FIX #2
Substitute he or him

Heads Up!
Use this mnemonic:
he = who
hiM = whoM

Isolate the clause who or whom is in. Rearrange the wording to create a declarative sentence (a sentence that states a fact) rather than a question. Then substitute he or him for who or whom. If your ear tells you that he is correct, use who; if your ear tells you that him is correct, use whom.

In the sentence
(Who/Whom) will watch the DVD with me?
substitute he and him and let your ear determine which sounds correct.

Correct  He will watch the DVD with me.
Incorrect  Him will watch the DVD with me.

Because he sounds correct, use who in the question:
Who will watch the DVD with me?

TECHNO TIP
For an online quiz on who and whom, search the Internet for this site: Grammar: Quiz on Forms of Who
For an online quiz on interrogative pronouns, search the Internet for this site: Interrogative Pronoun Quiz
23.3 Identifying Interrogative Pronouns

Directions: Read the following sentences and underline the interrogative pronoun in each.

1. Which shirt did you decide to buy?
2. Whatever happened to your “true love” from junior high?
3. Whose cell phone interrupted class?
4. When I started singing “Who Let the Dogs Out?” several others joined in.
5. What did I do with my car keys?

23.4 Using Correct Interrogative Pronouns: Who or Whom

Directions: Read the following sentences and underline the correct interrogative pronoun in each.

1. Who/Whom did you see at the Tips for Success study session?
2. Are we supposed to give the papers to whoever/whomever asks for them?
3. Who/Whom has the best sense of humor in class?
4. From who/whom did you get your academic grant?
5. Is Sarah Bruner the woman who/whom is our guest lecturer today?
6. Who/Whom was eliminated last night on The Bachelor?
7. Whoever/Whomever runs for student government will work with Dr. Tweddell.
8. Who/Whom was Ms. Jennings referring to when she said “outstanding student”?
9. From who/whom did you get the idea that class will be cancelled tomorrow?
10. With who/whom are you riding home?

Personal Pronouns

Personal pronouns refer to specific persons, places, or things. They change their form depending on person, number, case, or gender.
1. **Person** refers to *point of view*, the relationship between a writer and a reader.

   - **First person** refers to the person writing.
   - **Second person** refers to the person written to.
   - **Third person** refers to a person or thing written about.

2. **Number** refers to *singular* and *plural* words.

   
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Number Type</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The writer</td>
<td>first person singular</td>
<td>I, me, my, mine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The writers</td>
<td>first person plural</td>
<td>we, us, our, ours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The person addressed</td>
<td>second person singular</td>
<td>you, yours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The persons addressed</td>
<td>second person plural</td>
<td>you, yours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Someone, something else</td>
<td>third person singular</td>
<td>he, she, it, her, him, hers, his, its</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other people or things</td>
<td>third person plural</td>
<td>they, them, their, theirs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. **Case** refers to whether a pronoun is used as a subject, an object, or a possessive.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subject</td>
<td>I, my, mine, we, our, ours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Object</td>
<td>me, my, you, yours, he, him, his, she, her, hers, it, its</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possessive</td>
<td>my, mine, our, ours, your, theirs, her, hers, his, its</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. **Gender** refers to whether the pronoun stands for a male or female person or a neutral object.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male:</td>
<td>he, him, his</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female:</td>
<td>she, her, hers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutral:</td>
<td>it, its</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Problems with Personal Pronouns
Personal pronouns present a number of problems.

THE PROBLEM
Using apostrophes with possessive pronouns

Writers sometimes use apostrophes with possessive pronouns.

Incorrect The books my study partners left on the desk are their’s.
Incorrect The dog ate it’s bone.

THE FIX
Never use an apostrophe with a possessive pronoun

No possessive pronoun uses an apostrophe.

Correct The books my study partners left on the desk are theirs.
Correct The dog ate its bone.

23.5 Using Correct Possessive Pronouns
Directions: Read the following sentences and underline the correct possessive pronoun in each.

1. The police officer asked if the car parked on the grass was (their’s, theirs).
2. I study in the library because (it’s, its) computers have the best programs.
3. Julio and (his’, his) family sent a card when I was sick.
4. This billfold is (yours, your’s), isn’t it?
5. The moon lost (its, it’s) glow after midnight.
Which pronoun to use with the compound subject of a verb

Writers sometimes are unsure of the correct pronoun to use as part of the compound subject of a sentence.

**Gustavo and (I, me) can’t wait for the game to start.**

Rosa and (she, her) are having car troubles.

**THE FIX**

Change the verb; say only one of the pronouns and the verb

Change the verb to a singular form; then say the verb and only one of the pronouns. Your ear will tell you if the pronoun is correct. In the examples, you would never write

**Incorrect** Me can’t wait for the game to start.

**Incorrect** Her is having car troubles.

Instead, your ear would tell you to write

**Correct** I can’t wait for the game to start.

**Correct** She is having car troubles.

So you would write the sentences

Gustavo and I can’t wait for the game to start.

Rosa and she are having car troubles.
23.6 Using Correct Pronouns as Subjects

Directions: Read the following sentences and underline the correct subject in each.

1. Enrique and (I, me) will bring the food for the party.
2. Maddie and (she, her) volunteered to donate at the blood drive.
3. Why don’t you and (me, I) walk through campus?
4. The guys and (us, we) were trying to sing along to the new CD.
5. Kelsey and (we, us) are headed to math class.
6. The Carlsons and (them, they) live in second-floor apartments.
7. (Her, She) and her roommate are grilling tonight.
8. Grant and (me, I) are on our way to the mall.
9. Why do you and (him, he) always disagree?
10. Shaquille and (him, he) wore the same number on their jerseys.

THE PROBLEM

Which pronoun to use with the compound object of a verb

Some writers have a problem deciding the correct pronoun to use when writing compound objects of a verb.

Our instructor gave Cameron and (me, I) good grades.
The letter was addressed to Chelsea and (he, him).

THE FIX

Use only the pronouns

Read or say the sentence with only one of the pronouns (eliminate any nouns in the compound). Your ear will tell you which is correct. In the examples, you would never write

Incorrect  Our instructor gave I good grades.
Incorrect  The letter was addressed to he.
Instead, your ear would tell you to write

**Correct**  Our instructor gave *me* good grades.
**Correct**  The letter was addressed to *him*.

So you would write the sentences

Our instructor gave Cameron and *me* good grades.
The letter was addressed to Chelsea and *him*.

---

**23.7 Using Correct Pronouns as Objects**

**Directions:** Read the following sentences and underline the correct object in each.

1. You called Eliza and (*I, me*) last night.
2. Brock’s night class bores Kasey and (*he, him*).
3. Mr. Franklin teaches Aidan and (*me, I*).
4. Did you want Chaz and (*her, she*) to wait for you?
5. Grandmother often texts Ella and (*he, him*).
6. Grandfather sends (*us, we*) cards through the mail.
7. Uncle Albert called Kim and told (*her, she*) she’d take her out to lunch.
8. Will you remind Kyla and (*he, him*) of the assignment?
9. The constant ringing of cell phones is driving Madelyn and (*I, me*) both up the wall.
10. Please give (*us, we*) some help with our math problems.

---

**Reflexive and Intensive Pronouns**

The same eight words act as reflexive and intensive pronouns.

- *myself*
- *yourself*
- *himself*
- *herself*
- *itself*
- *ourselves*
- *yourselves*
- *themselves*

**Reflexive pronouns** are always objects and always refer action back to the subject.

**Reflexive pronoun** (object)

\[ 
\text{I surprised } \underline{\text{myself}} \text{ with the grade on my paper.} 
\]

*Myself* refers to the subject of the sentence, *I*. 

---
Types of Pronouns

**THE PROBLEM**
Reflexive pronoun with no antecedent

Some writers use a reflexive pronoun without having named whom or what the pronoun refers to (the reflexive pronoun does not have an antecedent).

Incorrect  
Give the papers to Noreen and *myself* before you leave.  
(The antecedent of *myself* is not named in the sentence.)

**THE FIX**
Use an antecedent with a reflexive pronoun

Use a reflexive pronoun only if its antecedent is named in the same sentence.

Correct  
Give the papers to Noreen and *me* before you leave.

**Intensive pronouns**, which come immediately after their antecedents, help to emphasize their antecedents.

Intensive pronoun

\[ \text{I myself was surprised with the grade on my paper.} \]

Myself emphasizes its antecedent, I.

Intensive pronouns may be omitted without altering the meaning of the sentence.

**THE PROBLEM**
Nonstandard reflexive and intensive pronouns
These words are nonstandard and should not be used in academic or other formal writing:

- hisself
- theyself
- theirselves
- theirself
- theirselves

### THE FIX

Use the correct form of the word

- hisself should be himself
- ourself should be ourselves
- theyself should be themselves
- theirself should be themselves
- theirselves should be themselves

### 23.8 Using Reflexive and Intensive Pronouns Correctly

Directions: Read the following sentences, identify the error(s) in each, and then write the corrected version on the line below.

1. Shawn helped hisself to the candy on the desk.
   
   **Shawn helped himself to the candy on the desk.**

2. Claudia was surprised herself with how hard the test was.
   
   **Claudia herself was surprised with how hard the test was.**

3. Papers were handed out by herself.
   
   **Papers were handed out by her.**

4. Those toddlers can’t stop theirselves after they start giggling.
   
   **Those toddlers can’t stop themselves after they start giggling.**

5. Austin knew himself he’d get a call from the dean.
   
   **Austin himself knew he’d get a call from the dean.**

6. All the class members have introduced theirselves to each other.
   
   **All the class members have introduced themselves to each other.**

7. Leave your paper with either Tori or myself and we’ll turn it in.
   
   **Leave your paper with either Tori or me and we’ll turn it in.**
Indefinite Pronouns

Indefinite pronouns refer to nouns that are not identified.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>all</th>
<th>anything</th>
<th>everyone</th>
<th>most</th>
<th>none</th>
<th>several</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>another</td>
<td>both</td>
<td>everything</td>
<td>much</td>
<td>nothing</td>
<td>some</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>any</td>
<td>each</td>
<td>few</td>
<td>neither</td>
<td>one</td>
<td>somebody</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>anybody</td>
<td>either</td>
<td>little</td>
<td>no one</td>
<td>other</td>
<td>someone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>anyone</td>
<td>everybody</td>
<td>many</td>
<td>nobody</td>
<td>others</td>
<td>something</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The nouns these pronouns replace are not named

- Nothing was wrong with the television.
- Many are coming to the game.
- Anyone can learn to play poker.

THE PROBLEM

Indefinite pronouns that look plural but are singular

Some indefinite pronouns look as if they are plural, but they are singular.

THE FIX

Always use a singular verb with certain indefinite pronouns
These indefinite pronouns may look plural, but each is singular and takes a singular pronoun and a singular verb.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>anybody</th>
<th>each</th>
<th>everybody</th>
<th>everything</th>
<th>nobody</th>
<th>somebody</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>anyone</td>
<td>either</td>
<td>everyone</td>
<td>neither</td>
<td>one</td>
<td>someone</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Correct**

Everyone is waiting for his or her grade.

Singular verb  Singular pronoun

Even though everyone means many people, it is singular.

**Correct**

Each of the books has had its spine repaired.

Singular pronoun  Singular verb

Even though each means many things, it is singular.

---

### 23.9 Using Correct Singular Indefinite Pronouns

**Directions:** Read the following sentences and underline the correct indefinite pronoun in each.

1. Everyone (start, starts) to sing when the fight song begins.
2. If Mom’s not happy, nobody (is, are) happy.
3. These days, one (is, are) always on the lookout for a bargain.
4. Either (is, are) an acceptable answer.
5. Everybody (stop, stops) talking when the lights go down.
6. Anyone in class (is, are) eligible to receive free tutoring.
7. For the survey, each of the students in the third row (get, gets) a #2 pencil.
8. Somebody (is, are) hosting a surprise party in the Student Center.
9. Everything (was, were) in place when we arrived.
10. Someone (sit, sits) in that seat.

---

### THE PROBLEM

Indefinite pronouns that can be singular or plural
Types of Pronouns

Five indefinite pronouns can be either singular or plural:

| all | any | most | none | some |

Look at the object of the preposition to decide whether to use a singular or plural verb.

If one of the indefinite pronouns *all*, *any*, *most*, *none*, or *some* is followed by a prepositional phrase, look at the object of the preposition. If that object is singular, use a singular verb; if the object is plural, use a plural verb.

In both of these sentences, the indefinite pronoun *none* is the subject:

- Money is singular, so the verb is singular.
  
  None of the money was recovered.

- Suspects is plural, so the verb is plural.
  
  None of the suspects were captured.

**23.10 Using Correct Verbs with Pronouns That Can Be Singular or Plural**

**Directions:** Read the following sentences and underline the correct indefinite pronoun in each.

1. Any of the students (*is*, *are*) entitled to get extra tickets to the game.
2. All of the equipment (*was*, *were*) ready when we arrived.
3. None of the people (*is*, *are*) enrolling in the early session.
4. Most of the food (*was*, *were*) donated by a local restaurant.
5. All of the papers (*was*, *were*) accepted in the competition.
6. Some of the juice (*has*, *have*) lost its flavor.
7. Most of the sandwiches (*was*, *were*) eaten by the hungry staff.
8. None of the instructors (*has*, *have*) signed up to help on Friday.
9. Some of the visitors (*is*, *are*) people I recognize.
10. (*Is*, *Are*) any of these seats taken?
Pronouns Must Clearly Identify Their Antecedents

For sentences to be understood correctly, antecedents of pronouns must be clear.

THE PROBLEM
Unclear antecedents

To avoid confusion, be sure a pronoun has a clear antecedent.

Incorrect  Allison hoped Kelsey would join her study group because **she** was shy.

Allison  Kelsey  Who is **she**?

The meaning is unclear; the reader doesn’t know if Allison or Kelsey is the person who is shy.

Incorrect  Kyle took the doors off the jambs and painted **them**.

doors  jambs  What is **them**?

The meaning is unclear because the reader doesn’t know if Kyle painted the jambs or the doors.

Incorrect  *They* said class will be in the library today.

*They*  What is *they*?

The meaning is unclear because the reader doesn’t know who *they* is; the pronoun has no antecedent.

THE FIX
Reword the sentence to eliminate the vague or ambiguous pronoun
Rewording the sentence lets the reader know which meaning was intended:

Correct: Allison hoped Kelsey would join her study group because Allison was shy.

or

Now the reader understands who was shy.

Correct: Kyle painted the jambs after taking the doors off them.

or

Now the reader understands what Kyle painted.

Correct: Kyle painted the doors after taking them off the jambs.

Correct: Three people in English 085 said class will be in the library today.

---

23.11 Correcting Unclear Pronoun References

Directions: Read the sentences below and rewrite them so they are no longer unclear. Answers will vary.

1. Megan told Stephanie that her instructor had arrived.
2. They bought Ciarra a new motorcycle.
3. Justin’s assignment was in his backpack, but he can’t find it.
4. The temperature reached ninety, and the noise from the paving in the parking lot was loud. It made concentrating on the test difficult.
5. After she moved, Mariah took her books out of the boxes and stacked them in the spare room.
6. In his speech on campus, Governor Washburn said we’d get a new student center, which sounded good.
7. They told me to pick up my car this afternoon.
8. Vincent watched the DVD for five minutes, which was not the right thing to do.
9. Angelica asked her landlady if she could cook a turkey.
10. The flood had caused the road to be covered with water; it was a big problem.
Pronouns Must Agree in Number with Their Antecedents

LEARNING GOAL
Ensure pronouns agree in number with their antecedents

Agreement in number refers to pronouns and antecedents being singular or plural. Because pronouns refer back to nouns (their antecedents), the rule that pronouns must agree in number means that

- if the antecedent of a pronoun is singular, the pronoun must be singular
- if the antecedent of a pronoun is plural, the pronoun must be plural

This example is incorrect because the pronoun *them* is plural and its antecedent *essay* is singular.

This example is correct because both the pronoun *it* and its antecedent *essay* are singular.

THE PROBLEM #1

Using *they*, *them*, or *their* incorrectly

Some instructors classify *their* as a possessive adjective.

Some writers incorrectly use *they*, *them*, or *their* to refer to an antecedent that is singular and can be either masculine or feminine.

This example is incorrect because a professor is singular and can be masculine or feminine, so *they* is incorrect.

THE FIX

Change to gender-neutral constructions that are singular or change construction so both pronoun and antecedent are plural.
Use “he or she,” “him or her,” or “his or her.” These are called \textit{gender-neutral} constructions because they are free of reference to a specific sex.

\textbf{Correct} \quad When a professor is out of town, \textit{he or she} may cancel class.

Professor is singular and can be masculine or feminine, so \textit{he or she} is correct.

\textbf{Correct} \quad When professors are out of town, \textit{they} may cancel class.

Professors is plural and can be masculine or feminine, so \textit{they} is correct.

\textbf{THE PROBLEM #2}

Overusing gender-neutral pronouns

Overusing “he or she” and other gender-neutral constructions is repetitive.

\textbf{Incorrect} \quad When a professor is out of town, \textit{he or she} may cancel class. \textit{If he or she} must do so, \textit{he or she} will tell students.

\textbf{THE FIX}

Change to plural pronouns and antecedents

If possible, reword with plurals.

\textbf{Correct} \quad When professors are out of town, \textit{they} may cancel class. \textit{If they} must do so, \textit{they} will tell students.

\textbf{23.12 Correcting Pronoun Problems in Number}

\textbf{Directions:} Read the sentences below and rewrite them to correct problems with pronoun number. \textit{Answers will vary.}

1. Everyone should do their part to help the environment.
2. Each student should have their ID to get in free.

(continued)
3. If a caller asks for personal information, don’t give it to them.
4. When the Phi Delta Kappa representative contacts you, tell them you’re interested in joining.
5. Reading essays written by another student will help you understand their point of view.
6. Do you always get up with your child if they cry during the night?
7. Each member of the US Senate may e-mail their constituents an update on the bill.
8. The attendant at the gas station knows the way; ask them for directions.
9. If that fan keeps jumping in the stands, they’re going to get hurt.
10. Every nursing student will take their finals during the same week.
Answer the questions below to review your mastery of pronouns.

1. What is a pronoun?
   A pronoun is a word that takes the place of a noun or other pronoun.

2. What is an antecedent?
   An antecedent is the noun a pronoun stands for.

3. What are the four demonstrative pronouns?
   Demonstrative pronouns are this, that, these, and those.

4. What does a relative pronoun do?
   A relative pronoun connects a subordinate clause to the rest of the sentence.

5. How does a writer determine when to use *who* and when to use *whom*?
   Isolate the clause the pronoun is in and decide if the pronoun is used as a subject or an object. Use *who* if it is a subject; use *whom* if it is an object.

6. Interrogative pronouns are used in what type of sentence?
   Interrogative pronouns are used in questions.

7. Personal pronouns change form, depending on what?
   Personal pronouns change their form depending on person, number, case, or gender.

8. When should a personal pronoun be written with an apostrophe?
   A personal pronoun should never be written with an apostrophe.

9. What do reflexive pronouns always refer?
   Reflexive pronouns always refer action back to the subject.

10. What is the function of an intensive pronoun?
    An intensive pronoun helps to emphasize its antecedent.

11. What is an indefinite pronoun?
    An indefinite pronoun is a word that refers to a noun that is not identified.

12. If a pronoun has an unclear antecedent, what should a writer do?
    A writer should reword a sentence to eliminate an unclear antecedent.

13. What does the rule that pronouns must agree in number mean?
    The rule that pronouns must agree in number means that if the antecedent of a pronoun is singular, the pronoun must be singular; if the antecedent of a pronoun is plural, the pronoun must be plural.