

Pronouns

A **pronoun** takes the place of a noun. It refers back to the noun that it replaces. Writers need to use the correct pronouns to make their writing easy to understand.

Pronouns must agree in number.

If the pronoun takes the place of a singular noun, you have to use a singular pronoun.

Incorrect:

The **dog** took a nap after **they** ran around the yard.

Correct:

The **dog** took a nap after **it** ran around the yard.

The words **everybody**, **anybody**, **anyone**, **each**, **neither**, **nobody**, **someone**, and **somebody** are singular and take singular pronouns.

Incorrect:

Everybody is allowed to bring **their** favorite CD.

Correct:

Everybody is allowed to bring **his** favorite CD.

Pronouns must agree in voice/person.

When writing, stick to one voice. For example, if you are the first person (I), do not confuse your reader by switching to the second person (you) or third person (he, she, they, it, etc.). Similarly, if you are using the second person, do not switch to first or third.

Incorrect:

When **a singer** takes the stage, **you** should smile at the crowd.

Correct:

When **a singer** takes the stage, **he** should smile at the crowd.

An antecedent is the noun the pronoun refers to or replaces.

The basketball was no longer inflated after my dad ran over **it**.

