

PRONOUN PRACTICE

The following exercises will reinforce the pronoun rules.

Rule #1

Edit the following sentences to eliminate problems with pronoun-antecedent agreement:

The instructor has asked everyone to bring their own tools.

On the first day of class, Mr. Bhatti asked each student why they wanted to stop smoking.

If a driver refuses to take a breath trest, he or she will have their licenses suspended.

No one should be forced to sacrifice their prized possession—life.

If anyone notices any suspicious activity, they should report it to the police.

Rule #2

Edit the following sentences to eliminate problems with unclear pronoun reference.

The detective removed the bloodstained shawl from the body and then photographed it.

When Aunt Harriet put the cake on the table, it collapsed.

Harry, the defendant, told the judge he was mentally ill.

Because I didn't rinse last night's dishes, it smells like a garbage can.

When the car banged into the wall, it was damaged.

Rule #3

Edit the following sentences to eliminate problems with unclear use of the pronoun "they."

Students can secure parking permits from the campus police office; they are open all day.

Be sure to visit the fair where they sell everything from rugs to calculators.

Before the demonstration, they passed out signs for us to carry.

I ordered three albums from the record store, but they never sent them.

We are treated horribly at work; they must think we're slaves.

Rule #4

Edit the following sentences to eliminate the indefinite use of the pronoun "it."

In an article from a Seattle newspaper, it stated that 53% of gunshot deaths occur in the home.

In a pamphlet, it stated that "firearms produce a chilling effect on criminal behavior."

Rule #5 and #6

Select the correct subject or object pronoun in the following sentences.

Nate and (I/me) went shopping yesterday.

(She/Her) and Louise look enough alike to be sisters.

The certified letter was addressed to both (she/her) and (I/me).

If (he/him) and Vic are serious about school, why are they absent so much?

When we were little, my sister and (I/me) invented a secret language.

Lola ran after Sue and (I/me) to return our books.

Our professor told (we/us) students that our final exam was canceled.

Paul is a much faster typist than (I/me).

The audience laughed when Mario and (he/him) walked onstage in the carrot costumes.

It was up to Kelly and (I/me) to fix the loose handrail on the porch.

Just between you and (I/me), the mayor is a horrible womanizer.

My neighbor asked Eric and (I/me) to help him unload his truck.

Although we got a late start, Herbie and (I/me) collected enough cans to win the contest.

Rule #7

Select the correct possessive pronoun in the following sentences.

The tornado destroyed everything in (its/it's/its') path.

(Their/there/they're) clothes were stolen from the health club.

Those plants haven't been watered because (their/there/they're) leaves are brown.

Besides the fact that this car runs well, (its/it's/its') trade-in value remains high.

When (your/you're) plane arrives, call us.

Please place each file in (its/it's/its') proper sequence.

Rule #8

Select the correct possessive pronoun in the following sentences.

The clothes that were stolen from the health club are (theirs/theirs').

That coat is (hers/hers')

Since I'm about to get sick, that last drink is (yours/yours') if you want it.