

SENTENCE ESSENTIALS - ENC 0002
PRONOUN AGREEMENT - REVIEW

Remember that a verb must AGREE in number (singular / plural) with its subject.

A PRONOUN must also AGREE with its **antecedent** [the word the pronoun refers back to].

*The **truck** had a dent in **its** fender.* [*its* must be singular since its antecedent *truck* is singular]

*The **trucks** all had dents in **their** fenders.* [*their* is plural since its antecedent *trucks* is plural]

- the SINGULAR words – **each, either/neither, -one** [*someone, anyone, no one*], **-body** [*somebody, anybody, nobody*], **-thing** [*something, anything, nothing*] – take **singular verbs** and must be referred to by **singular pronouns**.

*Everybody **is** expected to turn in **his** paper today.* [*everybody* is singular and takes a singular verb and pronoun]

*Neither of my brothers **knows** **his** social security number.* [*neither* is singular]

*Each of the textbooks **is** available in the campus bookstore.*

- the PLURAL words – **both, few, many, several, two** [*three...*], **others** – take **plural verbs** and must be referred to by **plural pronouns**.

*Many **are** expected to turn in **their** papers today.*

*Both of my brothers **know** **their** social security numbers.*

*A few of the textbooks **are** available in the campus bookstore.*

- the words – **all, any, some, none, more, most** – can be SINGULAR or PLURAL, depending on the sentence.

*All of the students **are** expected to turn in **their** papers today.* [*all of the students* is plural]

*All of the furniture **is** in **its** place.* [*all of the furniture* is singular]

*Some of the people **are** missing **their** appointments.* [*some of the people* is plural]

*Some of the money **is** missing from **its** place.* [*some of the money* is singular]

*None of the water **tastes** good.* [*none of the water* is singular]

*None of the guests **are** in **their** seats yet.* [*none of the guests* is plural]

- COMPOUND SUBJECTS

- ▶ joined by **and** usually require **plural verbs** and are referred to by **plural pronouns**.

*Carlos and Maria **are** in **their** new house.*

- ▶ joined by **or / nor** can be **singular** or **plural**; the verb and pronoun must agree with the subject closer to them.

*Neither Sara **nor** her sisters **were** able to find **their** car.* [the verb *were* and pronoun *their* match *sisters*, which is the closer subject]

*Neither her sisters **nor** Sara **was** able to find **her** car.* [the verb *was* and pronoun *her* match *Sara*, which is the closer subject]

Practice

I. In the following sentences, circle the subject(s) and underline the correct verb.

1. All of the workers (agree / agrees) to be more punctual.
2. Neither of the flashlights (is / are) working.
3. My sister and brother (fights / fight) constantly.
4. Everyone in my neighborhood (has / have) already put up their hurricane shutters.
5. Neither Christina nor her study partners (is / are) willing to finish the project.
6. Many of the employees (wants / want) to take their vacations in August.
7. None of the riders on the bus (is / are) watching what the driver is doing.
8. Both of the celebrities (is / are) waiting to be interviewed.
9. Some of the food (has / have) gone bad since we lost power.
10. None of the packages (has / have) arrived yet.

II. The following passage contains five errors in SUBJECT/VERB AGREEMENT. Cross out the incorrect verb, and write the correct verb above the line.

Neither of my two best friends are able to agree on what to do on the weekends. The disagreements occurs because they both have different personalities. Jenny, who loves movies, like to go to the theater every Saturday night. On the other hand, Michael's idea of a good time is to go dancing. Neither Jenny nor Michael believe that they will hang out together for long, for they is both quite stubborn.

III. Circle the correct PRONOUN and draw a line to its ANTECEDENT.

11. One of the books was missing (its / their) cover.
12. After the test, everyone lost (his / their) motivation.
13. Neither Mary nor her sisters have received (her / their) invitations to Lenore's wedding.
14. Each of the puppies was searching for (its / their) mother.
15. The company that my father works for had to recall many of (its / their) products.
16. The teachers told (his or her / their) students to be prepared for the field trip.
17. Do you think the Yankees or the Marlins will win (his / their) next three-game series?
18. Jason and Mike need (his / their) computers fixed immediately.
19. The administration will announce (its / their) new policies at the next press meeting.
20. Many of the residents lost (his / their) roofs during the hurricane.