

# Indefinite Pronouns as Antecedents

*Reteaching*

A personal pronoun must agree in number with the indefinite pronoun that is its antecedent.

## Indefinite Pronouns

Singular		Plural	Singular or Plural
another	neither	both	all
anybody	nobody	few	any
anyone	no one	many	most
anything	nothing	several	none
each	one		some
either	somebody		
everybody	someone		
everyone	something		
everything			

Use a singular pronoun to refer to a singular indefinite pronoun. Use a plural pronoun to refer to a plural indefinite pronoun.

Everyone had a different reason for his or her recklessness.

Many of the observers could not overcome their disbelief.

Some indefinite pronouns can be singular or plural. Use the meaning of the sentence to determine whether the indefinite pronoun is singular or plural.

Some of the water makes its way over the Canadian side of the falls.

Some of the daredevils met their deaths at Niagara Falls.

## Using Indefinite Pronouns

Choose the correct pronoun from those in parentheses.

- Most of the people who visit Niagara Falls derive (his or her, their) enjoyment by simply watching the water fall and listening to it roar.
- A few of the visitors risk (their, his or her) lives in an attempt to conquer the Falls.
- Anybody who goes over the Falls in a barrel should have (their, his or her) head examined.
- Only a few of us would ever risk (his or her, our) lives in this foolish way.
- Either of the sides—the American or the Canadian—presents (their, its) own challenges.
- You would think that none of the people who went over it in barrels could emerge with (its, their) health intact, but some actually did.
- In 1901, one of the hopeful daredevils, Anna Taylor, took (their, her) chances and successfully went over the Falls in a barrel.
- Daredevils everywhere were enchanted by her successful trip; another attempted the feat in 1911, spending months recuperating from (his, their) adventure.

# Indefinite Pronouns as Antecedents

## More Practice

### A. Identifying Indefinite Pronouns

Underline the indefinite pronoun in each sentence. Then underline the correct pronoun(s) in parentheses.

1. Several of the containers in the chemistry lab were missing (its, their) labels.
2. Everyone has paid (his or her, their) part of the rental fee.
3. Many of the musicians in the band bought (his or her, their) own instruments.
4. None of the sulfur is in (its, their) flask.
5. All of the gymnasts practiced (his or her, their) routines before the tournament.
6. Neither of the girls brought (her, their) swimsuit.
7. If anyone is interested, have (him or her, them) fill out an application.
8. Nobody wanted (his or her, their) lunch after seeing that film.
9. Both the stores raised (its, their) prices.
10. Some of the architects have already sent in (his or her, their) designs.
11. Everything was returned to (its, their) owner.
12. Most of the seasoning had lost (its, their) flavor.

### B. Using Pronouns Correctly

In each sentence below, decide whether the pronouns agree with their antecedents. If the sentence is correct, write **Correct** on the line. If it contains a pronoun that does not agree with its antecedent, rewrite the sentence correctly on the line.

1. All of the squirrels were busy gathering its food for the long winter.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Everyone in the class quickly sat in their assigned seat.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Will anyone who can run a projector give the principal his or her name?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Each of the musicians tuned their own instrument.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Do all of the actors have his or her scripts handy?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Has anybody here lost these proofs of his yearbook photos?

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Neither of the scientists completed their experiment on time.

\_\_\_\_\_