

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Synthesizing the Submerged Subject: Advanced Pronoun Logic for College Scholars

Scholars deconstruct complex anaphoric relations, ethical pronominal shifts, and the nuanced syntactical functions of intensive and relative structures.

1. In the context of legal discourse, how does the use of the 'generic he' vs. 'singular they' impact the interpretation of statutory inclusivity?

Answer: C) Reliance on masculine defaults can create systemic ambiguity regarding the intended scope of a law's application.

Advanced sociolinguistic analysis identifies that gendered pronoun defaults in formal documentation can marginalize non-masculine subjects, leading to legal and social ambiguity.

2. The 'intensive pronoun' is linguistically distinct from the 'reflexive pronoun' because it functions primarily as an appositive to emphasize a preceding noun rather than serving as a necessary direct object.

Answer: A) True

Intensive pronouns (e.g., 'The President himself') provide emphasis and can be removed without changing the basic grammatical structure, unlike reflexive pronouns which are required for meaning.

3. Select the correct pronoun to maintain formal subjective case in this high-register construction: 'It was _____ who first identified the correlation between the variables.'

Answer: C) he

In formal English, a pronoun following a linking verb (the copula 'was') should be in the subjective case (nominative), making 'he' the correct choice over 'him'.

4. Syntactically analyze the following sentence: 'The committee members, most of whom had resigned, left the building.' What is the function of 'whom'?

Answer: B) A relative pronoun functioning as the object of the preposition 'of'.

'Whom' is the objective case of the relative pronoun 'who' and here follows the preposition 'of', necessitating the objective form.

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5. Identify the error in pronoun-antecedent logic: 'Every archaeological site provides unique data that will eventually lose _____ original context.'

Answer: B) its

'Every' is a singular distributive adjective; therefore, the pronoun referring back to 'site' must be the singular possessive 'its'.

6. In the sentence 'That is the crux of the argument,' the word 'that' serves as a relative pronoun connecting two independent clauses.

Answer: B) False

In this specific sentence, 'that' is a demonstrative pronoun functioning as the subject, not a relative pronoun connecting clauses.

7. Explain the subtle shift in meaning when using 'each other' vs. 'one another' in a research paper regarding four distinct variables.

Answer: B) 'One another' is traditionally preferred for more than two entities, suggesting complex interaction.

While the distinction is softening, 'each other' historically refers to two people/things, while 'one another' refers to three or more, denoting reciprocal action among a group.

8. In the sentence 'The dichotomy between researchers and _____ remains a point of contention,' select the pronoun to complete the prepositional phrase.

Answer: C) us

The pronoun follows the preposition 'between' and functions as one of its objects, requiring the objective case 'us'.

9. An 'expletive' pronoun (like 'it' in 'It is raining') is also known as a dummy subject because it occupies a syntax position without referring to a specific noun.

Answer: A) True

Expletive pronouns or 'pleonastic' pronouns provide a required grammatical subject for verbs in languages like English even when no semantic agent exists.

10. Examine the following: 'Neither the archival documents nor the microfiche has yielded its secrets.' Why is 'its' used rather than 'their'?

Answer: B) The pronoun agrees with the nearest antecedent 'microfiche,' which is singular.

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When antecedents are joined by 'neither/nor' or 'either/or,' the pronoun typically agrees with the antecedent closest to it.