

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Pro Performance: The Pronoun Pro Quiz for Grade 7

Antecedent agreement, relative clauses, and case analysis. An advanced diagnostic tool to sharpen syntactical precision during your next writing workshop.

1. In the sentence 'The committee reached its decision after hours of debate,' why is the possessive pronoun 'its' used instead of 'their'?

Answer: A) Because 'committee' is a collective noun acting as a single unit.

In formal English, collective nouns like 'committee' or 'team' take singular pronouns when the group is acting as one cohesive body.

2. Choose the correct pronoun to complete this complex sentence: 'The architect, _____ the city commissioned to design the new library, won a prestigious award.'

Answer: B) whom

'Whom' is the objective case pronoun required here because the architect is the object of the verb 'commissioned' (The city commissioned him/her).

3. In the sentence 'Neither the players nor the coach brought his equipment,' the use of 'his' is grammatically correct according to standard pronoun-antecedent agreement rules.

Answer: A) True

When using 'neither/nor' with subjects of different numbers, the pronoun should agree with the antecedent closest to it ('coach').

4. Identify the error in pronoun usage: 'If anyone wants to join the Antarctic expedition, they must undergo rigorous medical testing.'

Answer: A) The use of 'they' contradicts the singular indefinite pronoun 'anyone'.

Traditional grammar dictates that singular indefinite pronouns like 'anyone' require singular referents (he or she), though 'they' is increasingly accepted as a singular neutral pronoun.

5. Complete the sentence with the correct intensive pronoun: 'The President _____ signed the peace treaty to demonstrate personal commitment to the cause.'

Answer: A) himself

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An intensive pronoun (like himself) emphasizes its antecedent (The President). It adds emphasis but is not grammatically essential to the sentence's basic meaning.

6. Which of the following sentences utilizes a relative pronoun to introduce an essential (restrictive) clause?

Answer: B) The painting that hangs in the lobby was donated by an anonymous benefactor.

The word 'that' introduces an essential clause that identifies which painting is being discussed. Non-essential clauses usually use 'which' and are set off by commas.

7. In the phrase 'between you and I,' the pronoun 'I' is used correctly because it is the object of the preposition.

Answer: B) False

'Between' is a preposition, and prepositions require the objective case ('me'), not the subjective case ('I'). The correct phrase is 'between you and me.'

8. Identify the pronoun case needed: 'The scholarship was awarded to the student _____ the faculty felt best exemplified the school's values.'

Answer: A) who

Even though it follows a prepositional phrase, 'who' is the subject of the verb 'exemplified.' 'The faculty felt' is an interrupting parenthetical phrase.

9. Which sentence contains a vague pronoun reference that causes ambiguity?

Answer: A) When the car hit the bridge, it was damaged.

In sentence A, 'it' could refer to either the car or the bridge, making the meaning unclear.

10. The word 'several' is an indefinite pronoun that is always plural and must be paired with a plural verb.

Answer: A) True

'Several' is part of a group of indefinite pronouns (including both, few, and many) that are consistently plural in number.