

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Solve the Syntax: Advanced Pronoun Power for 12th Grade Pros

Navigate the nuances of elliptical clauses and relative pronoun case selection as you refine collegiate-level rhetorical precision.

1. In the context of formal academic writing, which sentence correctly utilizes a relative pronoun in the objective case?

Answer: A) The committee interviewed the candidate whom the board had recommended.

'Whom' is the objective case of the relative pronoun, serving as the direct object of the verb 'had recommended' within the dependent clause.

2. Identify the missing pronoun to complete this elliptical comparison correctly: 'The seasoned diplomat spoke more eloquently than ____.'

Answer: B) he

In an elliptical comparison, the pronoun is the subject of an implied verb; the full sentence is 'than he (spoke).'

3. True or False: In the sentence 'The director told the cast that they must provide their own costumes,' the word 'they' is a demonstrative pronoun.

Answer: B) False

'They' is a personal pronoun (third-person plural); demonstrative pronouns include this, that, these, and those.

4. Which sentence demonstrates a 'vague pronoun reference' error that would likely be flagged in a peer-review session?

Answer: A) After the governor met with the senator, she held a press conference.

The pronoun 'she' is ambiguous because it could refer back to either the 'governor' or the 'senator,' creating a vague antecedent.

5. Choose the most appropriate indefinite pronoun to maintain grammatical agreement: 'Neither of the complex philosophical arguments ____ lost its relevance.'

Answer: B) has

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'Neither' is a singular indefinite pronoun, requiring the singular verb form 'has' despite the plural 'arguments' in the prepositional phrase.

6. True or False: In the sentence 'Those are the most compelling manuscripts of the collection,' the word 'Those' functions as a demonstrative pronoun.

Answer: A) True

'Those' functions as a demonstrative pronoun because it stands alone to identify specific items.

7. Select the sentence where the pronoun 'it' is used expletively (as a dummy subject) to maintain rhetorical flow.

Answer: B) It is necessary for the protagonist to overcome his hubris.

In this sentence, 'it' does not refer to a specific noun but acts as a placeholder to shift the true subject to the end of the sentence.

8. Complete the following sentence using the correct case for the compound subject: 'The editor-in-chief and ___ reviewed the final proofs.'

Answer: C) I

'I' is the nominative (subjective) case pronoun required for a compound subject performing the action of 'reviewed.'

9. True or False: In the sentence 'The scholars debated amongst themselves,' the word 'themselves' is an intensive pronoun used for emphasis.

Answer: B) False

This is a reflexive pronoun because it is necessary for the meaning of the sentence (it acts as the object of the preposition), not merely for emphasis.

10. Which sentence pair correctly demonstrates a change from a relative pronoun to a possessive pronoun to improve clarity?

Answer: A) I met a woman who's daughter won. / I met a woman whose daughter won.

'Whose' is the possessive form, whereas 'who's' is a contraction of 'who is' or 'who has.'