

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Answer Key: Which Pronoun Best Resolves This Ambiguity? 7th Grade Advanced Quiz

Synthesize complex sentence structures by resolving vague antecedents and ensuring case agreement in academic and technical contexts.

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**1. In the sentence, 'The conductor told the cellist that their instrument required tuning,' why is the pronoun 'their' considered problematic in a formal academic context?**

**Answer:** B) It creates a vague antecedent because it could refer to either the conductor or the cellist

In advanced syntax, 'their' can be ambiguous if two possible antecedents (conductor and cellist) exist, making it unclear whose instrument is being discussed.

**2. The debate team argued that the trophy was \_\_\_\_\_ after the tie-breaking round concluded.**

**Answer:** C) theirs

'Theirs' is the correct possessive pronoun used to show ownership by the team; it never requires an apostrophe.

**3. True or False: In the sentence 'Whatever happens is fine with me,' the word 'Whatever' functions as a relative pronoun introducing a noun clause.**

**Answer:** A) True

'Whatever' is an indefinite relative pronoun that acts as the subject of the verb 'happens' and introduces the noun clause.

**4. Which sentence correctly utilizes the subjective case of a pronoun within a compound structure?**

**Answer:** D) She and the architect reviewed the blueprints for the new library.

'She' is in the subjective case and correctly functions as a compound subject for the verb 'reviewed'.

**5. To \_\_\_\_\_ should the diplomat address the formal invitation for the summit?**

**Answer:** C) whom

'Whom' is the objective case required after the preposition 'To'.

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**6. Identify the function of the italicized word: 'The scientist *\*herself\** conducted the final trial to ensure accuracy.'**

**Answer:** B) Intensive pronoun used for emphasis

An intensive pronoun adds emphasis to the noun it follows and is not essential to the sentence's basic meaning.

**7. True or False: In the phrase 'Each of the modern composers wrote their own score,' the use of 'their' is technically incorrect in traditional prescriptive grammar.**

**Answer:** A) True

Traditionally, 'Each' is a singular indefinite pronoun requiring a singular possessive (his or her), though 'their' is increasingly accepted in modern usage.

**8. Choose the sentence that demonstrates perfect pronoun-antecedent agreement with a collective noun.**

**Answer:** B) The committee presented its findings to the board.

When a collective noun acts as a single unit, it requires the singular pronoun 'its'.

**9. The curator noticed that \_\_\_\_\_ of the artifacts were damaged during the cross-country transport.**

**Answer:** B) several

'Several' is a plural indefinite pronoun that matches the plural verb 'were'.

**10. Which sentence contains a vague pronoun reference that needs revision?**

**Answer:** B) After the storm hit the coast, it was a total disaster.

The pronoun 'it' is vague because it has no clear noun antecedent; it refers loosely to the situation or the storm's aftermath.