

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Hidden in Plain Sight: 8th Grade Advanced Pronoun Case Quiz

Antecedent ambiguity, intensive vs. reflexive usage, and pronoun case analysis to provide a rigorous bell-ringer for pre-AP writing refinement.

1. In the following sentence, which pronoun function is utilized? 'The architect herself drafted the blueprint to ensure the structural integrity of the spire.'

Answer: B) Intensive: adds emphasis to the noun 'architect' and could be removed.

Intensive pronouns (ending in -self/-selves) emphasize their antecedent and are not grammatically essential to the sentence structure.

2. Choose the pronoun that correctly completes this formal comparative construction: 'Although the twins were both talented pianists, the judges believed Arthur was more technically proficient than ____.'

Answer: C) he

In formal comparison, the pronoun following 'than' or 'as' should be in the nominative case (he) because it is the subject of an implied verb: 'than he [was].'

3. True or False: In the sentence 'Neither of the explorers realized that their compass was malfunctioning,' the pronoun 'their' is used correctly according to traditional prescriptive grammar.

Answer: B) False

The indefinite pronoun 'neither' is singular; therefore, it requires the singular possessive 'his or her' rather than 'their' in formal prescriptive grammar.

4. Which of the following contains an objective case pronoun serving as an indirect object?

Answer: A) The committee sent us the revised protocol.

'Us' is the indirect object because it receives the direct object (protocol) for whom the action was performed.

5. Identify the correct pronoun to complete the sentence involving a gerund: 'The CEO was frustrated by ____ arriving late to the high-stakes board meeting.'

Answer: B) my

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In formal English, nouns or pronouns modifying a gerund (arriving) should be in the possessive case (my).

6. Evaluate which sentence uses a pronoun in the nominative case as a predicate nominative.

Answer: A) The lead scientists on the project were she and I.

Following a linking verb (were), the subject complements 'she and I' must be in the nominative case.

7. True or False: In the sentence 'Whoever wins the election must address the infrastructure crisis,' the pronoun 'Whoever' is in the nominative case because it serves as the subject of the noun clause.

Answer: A) True

'Whoever' is the subject of the verb 'wins' within its own clause, necessitating the nominative case regardless of the clause's role in the larger sentence.

8. Complete the sentence using the correct relative pronoun: 'The astronomer, _____ the university honored with a lifetime achievement award, discovered a new nebula.'

Answer: D) whom

'Whom' is the objective case pronoun required here because it is the direct object of the verb 'honored' (the university honored him/her).

9. Identify the error in pronoun usage in the following scenario: 'The debate was fierce, but ultimately, the argument between the senator and himself solved nothing.'

Answer: A) The sentence uses a reflexive pronoun where a personal pronoun (him) is required.

A reflexive pronoun cannot be used as the object of a preposition unless it refers back to the subject. Since the subject is 'debate', 'himself' is incorrect; it should be 'him'.

10. True or False: Indefinite pronouns like 'several,' 'few,' and 'both' always require plural verbs and plural possessive pronouns.

Answer: A) True

These specific indefinite pronouns are inherently plural and must maintain agreement with plural verbs and possessive forms (e.g., 'Both of the players lost their focus').