

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Wrangle Academic Clarity: A Pronoun Circuit for College Freshmen

Refine professional communication by identifying pronoun-antecedent agreement and usage in complex sentence structures beyond foundational grammar.

1. In the sentence, 'The board of directors submitted its final report before the deadline,' which type of pronoun is 'its'?

Answer: B) Possessive pronoun

'Its' is a possessive pronoun used here to show that the report belongs to the board (a collective noun treated as a singular unit).

2. Choose the correct pronoun to complete this sentence regarding academic integrity: 'If a student loses _____ access to the research database, they must contact the IT department.'

Answer: C) their

In modern academic writing (APA/MLA), 'their' is widely accepted as a singular, gender-neutral pronoun to refer back to the singular antecedent 'student'.

3. In the following sentence, the word 'himself' is used correctly: 'The Dean invited my colleague and himself to the gala.'

Answer: B) False

False. Reflexive pronouns like 'himself' must refer back to a subject in the same sentence (e.g., 'The Dean invited himself'). Here, the objective pronoun 'him' should be used.

4. Identify the demonstrative pronoun in this clinical observation: 'This is the specific reaction the researchers expected from the chemical compound.'

Answer: A) This

'This' functions as a demonstrative pronoun because it points directly to a specific thing (the reaction) and stands alone as the subject.

5. Complete the sentence: 'While the faculty members debated the curriculum, _____ agreed that more STEM funding was necessary.'

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Answer: D) they

'They' is the correct personal pronoun to replace the plural antecedent 'faculty members'.

6. 'Several' and 'Many' are examples of indefinite pronouns that are always plural in number.

Answer: A) True

True. Indefinite pronouns like several, many, few, and both always require plural verbs and plural referent pronouns.

7. Choose the sentence that uses a reflexive pronoun to emphasize the subject (intensive use):

Answer: C) The President herself signed the diplomat's credentials.

'Herself' is used here as an intensive pronoun to emphasize that the President performed the action personally.

8. Select the correct pronoun for the following formal context: 'To _____ should the internship application be addressed?'

Answer: B) whom

'Whom' is the objective case of the pronoun, required here because it follows the preposition 'To'.

9. In the sentence, 'Neither of the candidates has finished his or her speech,' the pronoun 'Neither' is treated as singular.

Answer: A) True

True. In formal grammar, the indefinite pronoun 'neither' is singular and requires a singular verb ('has') and singular possessive pronouns.

10. Which of the following is an example of a plural possessive pronoun?

Answer: A) Ours

'Ours' represents ownership by a group including the speaker, making it a plural possessive pronoun.