

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Nail Pronoun Case in 12th Grade Advanced Composition

Examine pronoun-antecedent logic beyond basic identification, focusing on syntactic precision in complex sentence structures for senior-level writing labs.

1. In her seminal essay 'The White Album,' Joan Didion writes about the chaotic nature of narrative. If a student writes, 'Every writer must find their own meaning,' which pronoun shift is occurring?

Answer: A) Singular they (Indefinite pronoun agreement)

While 'they' is increasingly accepted as a gender-neutral singular pronoun, in traditional formal grammar, it represents a shift from a singular antecedent ('Every writer') to a plural pronoun.

2. In the sentence, 'The committee submitted its report on the socioeconomic impact of the new legislation,' the pronoun 'its' is used correctly as a singular collective noun replacement.

Answer: A) True

Collective nouns like 'committee' or 'jury' take singular pronouns when the group is acting as a single, unified entity.

3. Zora Neale Hurston's protagonist, Janie Crawford, finds _____ voice after years of silence. Which possessive pronoun correctly completes the sentence?

Answer: C) her

'Her' is a possessive adjective used here to show ownership of the noun 'voice,' which is the direct object of the verb.

4. Consider Ralph Waldo Emerson's focus on the individual. In the phrase 'Whoso would be a man, must be a nonconformist,' the word 'whoso' functions as what type of pronoun?

Answer: B) Relative/Indefinite

'Whoso' (or whoever) acts as an indefinite relative pronoun, referring to any person who meets the condition described.

5. Identify the pronoun that correctly completes the following formal observation: 'Between you and _____, the protagonist's motivations remain ambiguous.'

Answer: C) me

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The preposition 'between' requires the objective case. 'Me' is the object of the preposition, even though 'you and I' is a common hypercorrection.

6. In the sentence 'Those are the primary sources for the dissertation,' the word 'Those' is acting as a demonstrative pronoun.

Answer: A) True

'Those' is a demonstrative pronoun because it stands alone to identify specific objects. If it were 'Those sources,' it would be a demonstrative adjective.

7. Which sentence demonstrates the correct use of a reflexive pronoun in a professional literary critique?

Answer: D) The honors students rewarded themselves with a gala.

Reflexive pronouns (like 'themselves') must refer back to a noun or pronoun in the same sentence that acts as the subject. Option A is actually an intensive use.

8. In Flannery O'Connor's 'A Good Man is Hard to Find,' the Misfit says, 'It's nothing for _____ to do but keep on.' Which is the grammatically standard objective pronoun?

Answer: B) him

The preposition 'for' requires the objective case pronoun 'him'.

9. The word 'anyone' is a plural indefinite pronoun and must always be paired with a plural verb like 'are'.

Answer: B) False

'Anyone' is a singular indefinite pronoun and requires a singular verb (e.g., 'Anyone is welcome').

10. Identify the error in pronoun usage: 'The debate team, having won the regional finals, focused their efforts on the national championship.'

Answer: D) Number agreement (singular vs plural)

'Team' is a singular collective noun. Formal grammar would require 'its efforts' rather than 'their efforts' unless the members of the team were acting individually.