

# PRONOUN AGREEMENT – EXERCISE 4

**Directions:** Choose the pronoun that establishes agreement. Check your answers with the [interactive version](#) of the exercise.

1. Not only the comma errors but also the poor word choice frustrated Professor O'Brien as she marked \_\_\_\_ frequent occurrence in Roger's research paper.  
  
A. its  
B. their
2. My weird neighbors believe that the Loch Ness Monster ate Elvis, but \_\_\_\_ that space aliens have kidnapped the brain of the President.  
  
A. he or she disagrees  
B. they disagree
3. During the car trip to the coast, neither of my sisters could get \_\_\_\_ beauty sleep in the back seat because our old car bounced along on bad shock absorbers.  
  
A. her  
B. their
4. Both the living room furniture and the kitchen counter have \_\_\_\_ scarred from cigarettes that my chain-smoking Aunt Mary carelessly put down.  
  
A. its surface  
B. their surfaces

5. Watching the new recruits marching in the hot sun, the two drill sergeants made bets on how many soldiers would vomit \_\_\_\_ lunch during the strenuous exercise.
- A. his
  - B. his or her
  - C. their
6. When the earthquake shook everyone awake, the family dashed outside without worrying about \_\_\_\_ possessions in the house.
- A. its
  - B. their
7. After using the scissors to trim the loose thread on his new suit, Marvin left \_\_\_\_ on the couch where his mother later stabbed her thigh on the sharp points.
- A. it
  - B. them
8. In their competition to have the fastest vehicle, neither of my brothers considered how a V-8 engine would drain \_\_\_\_ during the frequent trips to the gas pump to fill the tank.
- A. his wallet
  - B. their wallets
9. Students in Freshman Composition—even Lorena with her smart mouth—never make bald jokes in front of Professor Ortiz, for he will make \_\_\_\_ read their papers aloud in class.
- A. him or her
  - B. her
  - C. them

10. All of the clowns, acrobats, animal trainers, and audience members gasped in horror when \_\_\_\_ saw the knife juggler accidentally slice off his own hand with a chainsaw.
- A. he or she
  - B. they
11. Both of my sisters believe that Mom and Dad love our brother Fred more than \_\_\_\_.
- A. her
  - B. them
12. If students want to do well on the pronoun agreement quiz, \_\_\_\_ should have faithfully studied all the rules governing agreement.
- A. he or she
  - B. they
13. The nursing program at the college can boast that \_\_\_\_ students often have a 100 percent pass rate on the state boards.
- A. its
  - B. their
14. Each of these NFL players can remember a game when \_\_\_\_ played despite a pulled muscle, injured knee, or cracked rib.
- A. he
  - B. they
15. The city's marine aquarium spends thousands of dollars a day to feed \_\_\_\_ animals fresh fish, crustaceans, and seaweed flown in from around the world.
- A. its
  - B. their

16. The class brought \_\_\_\_ only to discover that an amiable substitute teacher was showing a movie that required no note-taking.
- A. its heavy textbook
  - B. his or her heavy textbooks
  - C. their heavy textbooks
17. After complaining to the amiable substitute about aching backs, the class enjoyed \_\_\_\_ day of respite from old Professor Matthews and his nonstop lecturing.
- A. its
  - B. their
18. Not only the customers but also Tiffany, the waitress on duty, ran for the emergency exit when \_\_\_\_ saw the giant green Martian walk into the diner.
- A. she
  - B. they
19. Neither the raw oysters nor the crispy fried squid tentacles appeal to Christine, who would never consider letting \_\_\_\_ touch her lips
- A. it
  - B. them
20. At the neighborhood grocery store, all of the cashiers, shoppers, and managers held \_\_\_\_ breath as a circus ringmaster led a baby elephant down the snack aisle to buy unsalted peanuts.
- A. his or her
  - B. its
  - C. their

