

# PRONOUN AGREEMENT – EXERCISE 5

**Directions:** Choose the answer that fixes an error in agreement. If no error exists, choose “No change is necessary.” Check your answers with the [interactive version](#) of the exercise.

1. If **drivers** thoughtfully used **their** turn signals, **he or she** would find that the daily commute required less honking, cursing, and fist shaking.
  - A. Change **drivers** to **everyone**.
  - B. Change **their** to **his or her**.
  - C. Change **he or she** to **they**.
  - D. No change is necessary.
  
2. Before students—even the adventurous Chris—bite into a cafeteria sandwich, **they** should lift the bun and check for caterpillars in the lettuce.
  - A. Change **they** to **he**.
  - B. Change **they** to **she**.
  - C. Change **they** to **he or she**.
  - D. No change is necessary.
  
3. When **swimmers ignore** the instructions of lifeguards, **they** might drown, get stung by jellyfish, or have **his or her** legs bitten by hungry sharks.
  - A. Change **swimmers ignore** to **a swimmer ignores**.
  - B. Change **they** to **he or she**.
  - C. Change **his or her** to **their**.
  - D. No change is necessary.

4. Not only the courtroom spectators but also Mrs. Pierre, the prosecutor, rolled **their** eyes in disbelief when Larry claimed that the family poodle ordered him to rob the bank.
- A. Change **their** to **his or her**.
  - B. Change **their** to **her**.
  - C. Change **their** to **its**.
  - D. No change is necessary.
5. The class voted unanimously to write one long research paper instead of several short essays for **its** final grade. But once the difficult projects began, some students wished that **they** could change **their** minds.
- A. Change **its** to **their**.
  - B. Change **they** to **he or she**.
  - C. Change **their** to **his or her**.
  - D. No change is necessary.
6. The team agreed that **their** strategy of fair play was ineffective against the constantly cheating Tyson High Tigers.
- A. Change **their** to **his**.
  - B. Change **their** to **his or her**.
  - C. Change **their** to **its**.
  - D. No change is necessary.
7. Every desk wobbles because of **its uneven legs**. Each textbook has answers written on **its pages**. Perhaps the administration can reevaluate **their** budget and provide some necessary classroom improvements.
- A. Change **its uneven legs** to **their uneven legs**.
  - B. Change **its pages** to **their pages**.
  - C. Change **their** to **its**.
  - D. No change is necessary.

8. Neither of my uncles believes that death is a reality for **them**. During the weekend, these two buddies spend **their time** jumping out of airplanes, never worrying that **their parachutes** might fail.
- A. Change **them** to **him**.
  - B. Change **their time** to **his time**.
  - C. Change **their parachutes** to **his parachute**.
  - D. No change is necessary.
9. My cousins Amanda and Ralph will not park in the spot reserved for Gloria because that girl will call a tow truck to remove **his** vehicle.
- A. Change **his** to **her**.
  - B. Change **his** to **his or her**.
  - C. Change **his** to **their**.
  - D. No change is necessary.
10. Tony refuses to eat at Bernie's Burger Emporium because **his** onions make Tony's breath stink so badly that Sophia will not kiss him for three days.
- A. Change **his** to **their**.
  - B. Change **his** to **his or her**.
  - C. Change **his** to **its**.
  - D. No change is necessary.
11. **Biology students** should dissect a frog for Professor Wright because the extra credit points will help **him or her** improve **their** averages at the end of the semester.
- A. Change **Biology students** to **Everyone**.
  - B. Change **him or her** to **them**.
  - C. Change **their** to **his or her**.
  - D. No change is necessary.

12. During the pep rally, not only Principal Stover but also the cheerleaders shouted as loudly as she could to inspire the basketball team to win.
- A. Change *she* to *he or she*.
  - B. Change *she* to *he*.
  - C. Change *she* to *they*.
  - D. No change is necessary.
13. Both Diane and her cat, Big Toe Joe, take her or his afternoon naps under the green quilt on the living room sofa.
- A. Change *her or his* to *his*.
  - B. Change *her or his* to *its*.
  - C. Change *her or his* to *their*.
  - D. No change is necessary.
14. The waitstaff take breaks only after they have served all of its guests. Management, however, wants them to take breaks at strictly scheduled times.
- A. Change *they have* to *it has*.
  - B. Change *its* to *their*.
  - C. Change *them* to *everyone*.
  - D. No change is necessary.
15. Aunt Louisa's barking Chihuahuas so startled poor Carolina, who was sound asleep on the living room sofa, that she threw a book at it.
- A. Change *it* to *them*.
  - B. Change *it* to *her*.
  - C. Change *it* to *him or her*.
  - D. No change is necessary.

16. Yesterday when Amir was in his calculus class, Bryan's snoring and Beverly's bubble gum smacking were so loud that **they** distracted him from Professor Armour's lecture.
- A. Change **they** to **it**.
  - B. Change **they** to **she**.
  - C. Change **they** to **he or she**.
  - D. No change is necessary.
17. In Jack's kitchen, each cup, plate, bowl, and glass has **their** rim chipped by careless dishwashing.
- A. Change **their** to **his**.
  - B. Change **their** to **his or her**.
  - C. Change **their** to **its**.
  - D. No change is necessary.
18. Not only the restaurant patrons but also Isabella, the busy hostess, whirled **her** head in the direction of the kitchen when Isaiah dropped the tray of expensive champagne glasses.
- A. Change **her** to **their**.
  - B. Change **her** to **his or her**.
  - C. Change **her** to **his**.
  - D. No change is necessary.
19. Leroy prefers an online retailer because **it will** often have special sales, and if Leroy spends enough money, **they** will ship for free. For every pair of jeans that Leroy owns, he will brag about how much money he saved **buying it** online.
- A. Change **it will** to **they will**.
  - B. Change **they** to **it**.
  - C. Change **buying it** to **buying them**.
  - D. No change is necessary.

20. Melissa washed her new pants because **they had** gotten muddy in the rain. Unfortunately, the hot water shrank the cotton fabric, so Melissa found scissors and used **it** to cut the pants into shorts. These shorts became her favorite pair because **they showed** off her beautiful legs.
- A. Change **they had** to **it had**.
  - B. Change **it** to **them**.
  - C. Change **they showed** to **it showed**.
  - D. No change is necessary.

