

PRONOUN AGREEMENT – EXERCISE 5

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

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

4. Not only the attorneys but also the judge rolled **their** eyes in disbelief when Larry claimed that Fluff-Ball, the family poodle, ordered him to rob a bank.
- A. his or her
 - B. her
 - C. its
 - D. No change is necessary.
5. The class voted unanimously to write one long research paper instead of several short essays for ^(A) **its** final grade. But once the difficult projects began, some students wished that ^(B) **they** could change ^(C) **their** minds.
- A. their
 - B. he or she
 - C. 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. his
 - B. his or her
 - C. its
 - D. No change is necessary.
7. All of the car's paint has lost ^(A) **its shine**, and most of the tires have lost ^(B) **its tread**. Some of the engine components, however, can still perform ^(C) **their** job.
- A. their shine
 - B. their tread
 - C. its
 - D. No change is necessary.

8. Neither of my best friends believes that death is a reality for ^(A) **them**. During the weekend, these two buddies spend ^(B) **their time** jumping out of airplanes, never worrying that ^(C) **their parachutes** might not open.
- A. him
 - B. his time
 - C. his parachute
 - D. No change is necessary.
9. Someone needs to move ^(A) **their** car out of Gloria's parking spot immediately; otherwise a tow truck will happily move ^(B) **his** vehicle for ^(C) **him**.
- A. his
 - B. their
 - C. them
 - D. No change is necessary.
10. Tony refuses to eat at Bernie's Burger Emporium because **their** onions make his breath stink so badly that his girlfriend won't kiss him for three days.
- A. his
 - B. his or her
 - C. its
 - D. No change is necessary.
11. ^(A) **Everyone** should dissect a frog for Dr. Wright because the extra credit points will help ^(B) **them** improve ^(C) **their** averages at the end of the semester.
- A. Biology students
 - B. him or her
 - C. his or her
 - D. No change is necessary.

12. During the pep rally, not only the cheerleaders but also Dr. Stover, the principal, shouted as loudly as **they** could to inspire the basketball team to win.
- A. he or she
 - B. she
 - C. it
 - 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. his
 - B. its
 - C. their
 - D. No change is necessary.
14. At Antonio's Restaurant, every waiter wanted to take a break after ^(A) **he** had taken care of ^(B) **his** guests, but all of the managers wanted ^(C) **them** to take a break at strictly scheduled times.
- A. they
 - B. their
 - C. the waiters
 - 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. them
 - B. her
 - C. him or her
 - D. No change is necessary.

16. Yesterday when Amir was in his calculus class, Samantha's snoring and Beverly's bubble gum smacking were so loud that **they** distracted him from Dr. Armour's lecture.
- A. he
 - B. she
 - C. 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. his
 - B. his or her
 - C. its
 - D. No change is necessary.
18. An explosive crash made every patron, server, hostess, and manager turn ^(A) **his or her** head in Isaiah's direction. ^(B) **They** could not believe how red the poor boy turned as ^(C) **he** stood amid the pile of dish fragments.
- A. their
 - B. These people
 - C. it
 - D. No change is necessary.
19. Leroy bought new jeans at the mall for two reasons: ^(A) **they had** a great sale, and the saleswoman ^(B) **told him** that she thought ^(C) **he had** a cute butt.
- A. the store had
 - B. told it
 - C. it had
 - D. No change is necessary.

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

