

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.

