

# PRONOUN CASE – EXERCISE 5: THEY, THEM, THEIR, THEIRS, AND THEMSELVES

**Directions:** Fill in the blanks with the appropriate choices—*they, them, their, theirs,* or *themselves*. Check your answers with the [interactive version](#) of the exercise.

- Oblivious to the consequences, Erica and Teresa spend all of history class chattering in the back row. \_\_\_\_\_ constant gossiping inspires Mrs. David to look extra hard for points to deduct when she grades their essays.
  - They
  - Them
  - Their
- Marsha and Diane wrestled the sofa up the flight of stairs. Derrick—with muscles bursting from his shirt sleeves—offered to help, but the two women insisted that they could do it \_\_\_\_\_.
  - themselves
  - themselves
  - themselves
  - themselves
- See those students over there? \_\_\_\_\_ will join you for a game if you want to share your basketball.
  - They and I
  - I and them

4. Yikes, those Nuclear Toaster fans are really rowdy! Too bad for you, seating is assigned, so you are between \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. Emilio and they
  - B. they and Emilio
  - C. Emilio and them
5. The squirrels crouched against the branches, stone still, as a hawk circled overhead. \_\_\_\_\_ and the other tree dwellers relaxed when the raptor finally abandoned the hunt and flew away.
- A. They
  - B. Them
6. Joshua shushed the two students sitting behind him. \_\_\_\_\_ knuckle cracking and gum smacking were making him crazy as he tried to concentrate on the dissection demonstration.
- A. They
  - B. Them
  - C. Their
7. Are you hungry? Those students are selling escargot—snails roasted in butter and garlic. \_\_\_\_\_ and Mrs. Montaigne, the French teacher, are trying to raise money for a trip to Paris.
- A. They
  - B. Them

8. Jacob and Ryan argued about the calculus problem. Marie offered the answer, but they wanted to solve the equation \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. theirself
  - B. theirselves
  - C. themself
  - D. themselves
9. Stop yelling at the cat and look at the dogs! It is \_\_\_\_\_ who are guilty of tipping over the trash.
- A. they
  - B. them
10. The students milled around the parking lot. \_\_\_\_\_ waited for the fire marshal to declare the alarm a prank and allow everyone back into the classrooms.
- A. Their professors and they
  - B. Their professors and them
  - C. Them and their professors
11. All of the cans in Sara's cupboards have their labels facing forward, like soldiers at attention. Sara has further organized \_\_\_\_\_ in alphabetical order.
- A. they and the cereal boxes
  - B. the cereal boxes and they
  - C. them and the cereal boxes
12. Monica asked if the test was open book. Leo wanted to know if he could use his notes. Albert pleaded for extra credit opportunities. Professor Edmundson continued the review session, ignoring \_\_\_\_\_ and their silly questions.
- A. they
  - B. them

13. The hungry angel fish pecked at the aquarium glass. Felicia was oblivious to \_\_\_\_\_ and their needs, intent as she was on finishing *her* last-minute, 20-page paper for Greek & Roman Humanities.
- A. they
  - B. them
14. Look at those students laughing and pointing this way. Perhaps it was \_\_\_\_\_ who slipped the whoopee cushion under your seat.
- A. they
  - B. them
15. While Tanya and I spent all night studying for the chemistry exam, our roommates ate pizza and watched movies. When we both received *As*, we felt superior to \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. they and their *Ds*
  - B. them and their *Ds*
  - C. their *Ds* and themselves
16. Because Rebecca over fertilized the garden, the tomato plants sagged with fruit. \_\_\_\_\_ will make a summer full of salads for a family that prefers fast-food burgers and pizza.
- A. They and the giant heads of lettuce
  - B. Them and the giant heads of lettuce
  - C. The giant heads of lettuce and them

17. The Bartletts made painting the house a family project. When they finished the two-story dwelling, they treated \_\_\_\_\_ to a weekend at the beach with the money they saved.
- A. theirself
  - B. theirselves
  - C. themself
  - D. themselves
18. Look at that flock of pigeons peering down at us from the power line. I'll bet it was \_\_\_\_\_ who defecated all over the roof of our clean car.
- A. they
  - B. them
19. The Jacksons are really struggling with that push mower. Perhaps we should offer \_\_\_\_\_ the use of our riding mower so that the torture can end.
- A. they and their lawn
  - B. their lawn and they
  - C. them and their lawn
20. The talent show contestants couldn't sing or play guitar. We applauded \_\_\_\_\_ because we knew we might bomb just as badly when our turn on stage arrived.
- A. they and their poor effort
  - B. them and their poor effort
  - C. their poor effort and they

