

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

