

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.

