**Pronoun Agreement**

**Pronoun Agreement Guidelines**

1 page long (ELC charges 10 cents/page for print jobs)

1. Pronouns are words used to refer to nouns. The noun to which a pronoun refers is known as the pronoun’s antecedent. Pronouns and their antecedents must agree in person and number.

For example: The boy lost his cap. (His is the pronoun and Boy is the antecedent of that pronoun.)

2. The term person refers to the point of view of a sentence. In English, we have first, second and third person. In general, if a sentence begins in first person, it should not shift to second or third person. If a sentence begins in third person, it should not shift to first or second person, etc.

The first person pronouns are: I, me, my, mine, we, us, ours

The second person pronouns are: you, yours

The third person pronouns are: he, his, him, she, hers, her, it, its, they, their, them

For example: I know about pain because when you hit your head, it hurts. (The sentence shifts from first person, I, to second person, you.)

3. The term number refers to the agreement, whether singular or plural, of the antecedent and its pronoun. If the antecedent is singular, then the pronoun has to be singular. If the antecedent is plural, then the pronoun has to be plural.

The singular pronouns are: I, me, my, mine, you, yours, he, his, him, she, hers, her, it, its

The plural pronouns are: we, us, ours, they, their, them, you, yours

For example: The student should turn in their papers before 5 p.m. today. (The antecedent, Student, is singular, but the pronoun, Their, is plural. Either make Student plural, Students, or change the phrase, Their Papers, to his or her paper to fix this sentence.)

4. Some nouns, like team and committee, are sometimes singular and sometimes plural. Others, like each and all, are either always singular or always plural. See the subject-verb and pronoun reference rules sheets to remind yourself of these special cases.

**Pronoun Agreement Grammar Module Activities**

1page (ELC charges 10 cents/page for print jobs)

Instructions: Read the Guidelines Sheet for Pronoun Agreement before you complete the following activities. The Extended Learning Center provides all the videos and books you will need to complete these activities.

Tutoring: You may see a tutor for help with understanding any of the following activities.

Activities:

Grammar textbook work: Do not write in the textbooks. Either photocopy exercise pages from the text or complete assignments on your own paper (writing short answers whenever possible, rather than copying entire sentences).

1. The Little, Brown Handbook (8th edition): Read Chapter 20 (pages 389-391) and complete Exercise 1 on page 391.

2. Writer’s Choice: Read page 396. Read pages 632-636. Complete Exercise 12 on page 633.

3. Worksheets: Complete Worksheets D21, D23, and D46 (the next pages in this document). Use the answer keys, located in the Extended Learning Center, to check your work.

Turn in all work assigned by your instructor to the ELC staff member on duty before taking the Pronoun Shift Test.

**PRONOUN AGREEMENT**

**PRACTICE TEST**

(2 pages, 10 cents/page for printing in the ELC)

PART I: In the following sentences, determine whether there is a pronoun shift or other pronoun agreement error. Mark answers as follows:

“a” the sentence does not contain a pronoun shift (all pronouns agree)

“b” the sentence does contain a pronoun shift (one or more pronouns do not agree)

1. Eighteen-and nineteen-year-olds’ driving records are the worst, and we are involved in more fatal car accidents than any other group.

2. The tenant who moves into this blue apartment will need to paint it.

3. The number of marriages ending in divorce in 1965 was 2.5 per 1,000, but by the 1970s, they had doubled to 5.0 per 1,000.

4. In many states, prisons have few rehabilitation programs; you will just be locked up for life.

5. A charismatic leader has the ability to draw other people into his or her dream.

6. When one falls in love, your body is flooded with emotions.

7. If people work hard, they can accomplish a great deal.

8. If a student does not understand an assignment, he or she should always consult the instructor.

9. When a taxpayer is waiting to receive a refund from the IRS, they begin to sit nervously by the mailbox.

10. These days, a person will not likely lose money in a bank because the government insures your deposits.

PART II: In the following paragraph, determine whether there is a pronoun shift or other pronoun agreement error. Mark your answers as follow:

“a” if the sentence does not contain a pronoun shift (all pronouns agree)

“b” if the sentence does contain a pronoun shift (all pronouns do not agree)

The standard for the paragraph is third person point of view.

(11)According to some experts, snobbery is measured by your mental attitude, not the extent of one’s worldly goods. (12) Because a snob is unsure of his or her social position, they are driven by what others think of them. (13) You tend to be too dependent on buying status symbols, and snobs look down on others. (14) One can trace the origin of the word snob to the British Isles. (15) The term snob—from the root word meaning “cut” –was originally applied to local cobblers. (16) Some of these shoemakers tended to take on the airs of his or her wealthy customers. (17) The term then trickled into the academic world when British students began using it to describe their peers. (18) Students at Cambridge University would taunt a social climber for “acting like a snob.” (19) When a student was called a snob, they knew that they were being insulted. (20) The students turned the word into a common term that you use all the time.

ANSWERS

PART I

1. B

2. A

3. B

4. B

5. A

6. B

7. A

8. A

9. B

10. B

PART II

11. B

12. B

13. B

14. A

15. A

16. B

17. A

18. A

19. B

20. B