

## PRONOUNS

**RULE: The most important thing to remember about a pronoun is that it replaces a noun. That's all!**

So, all you need to do, whenever you see a pronoun in a sentence, is to find the noun it replaces and make sure the two match in number and/or gender and that the correct form of the pronoun is used.

Example: I don't think the **shop** is open; *they* usually close at five thirty. (incorrect)  
I don't think the **shop** is open; *it* usually closes at five thirty. (correct)

**However, the SAT does three things that make connecting the noun and pronoun difficult:**

**I. The noun is followed by a prepositional phrase which changes the number. (Remember to ignore all prepositional phrases when finding your subject.)**

Example: The **sides** of the box are blue; *it* matches the top and bottom. (incorrect)  
The **sides** of the box are blue; *they* match the top and bottom. (correct)

**Exercises:** Circle all pronouns. Underline the noun that is being replaced and correct any incorrect pronouns.

1. The trucks driving to the farm are late; it must deliver the potatoes by 4 pm. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Soon, all televisions will be so thin that you will hang it on a wall. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Tom always goes to bed early because eleven o'clock is too late for me. \_\_\_\_\_
4. The bank opened a new branch; they are now located nearby. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Each of the players must bring their uniform. \_\_\_\_\_

**II. The noun that the pronoun is replacing is unclear.**

Example: Joan and Cheryl looked at the menu; she ordered a salad.  
Joan and Cheryl looked at the menu; *Joan* ordered a salad.

**Exercises:** Circle the unclear pronoun and then replace it with a word/words to clarify meaning.

1. I told my brother and my friend about the film and he wants to see it. \_\_\_\_\_
2. The teacher told the student that he should close the door. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Vicki and Ali decided to take her car to the beach. \_\_\_\_\_
4. The manager asked the secretary to call her cousin. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Susie brought an apple for Gabby and her sister. \_\_\_\_\_

**C. The wrong form of the pronoun is used.**

Correct form is determined by how the pronoun is used in the sentence. If the pronoun is doing the action of the verb, it is the subject and needs the subject form of the pronoun. If it is receiving the action, it is an object and needs the object form of the verb.

**Subject Form: I, he, she, we, they, who**

**Object Form: me, him, her, us, them, whom**

Example: On Valentine's Day, he sent cards to my friend and I.  
On Valentine's Day, he sent cards to my friend and *me*.

**AND: Who** (always refers to people and only people) **vs. Which or That** (refers to everything else).

**Exercises: Circle all pronouns, and then correct any incorrect pronouns.**

- 1. None was as surprised as me to see the flowers on the porch. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. I think my favorite player is him. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. I spoke with the officer that made the report. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. Us boys like to play in the puddles. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. He gave the DVD to my sister and I. \_\_\_\_\_

**Cumulative Review Exercises: Correct any incorrect pronouns.**

- 1. At the beach, we saw a crab who was walking sideways. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. You should tell the truth; one never knows when you will be caught. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Your bag is over there; take them with you when you go. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. Her shoes were dirty, so she cleaned it. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. Whomever wins the election will take office next week. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. If one wants to avoid bad grades, you should study. \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. Nick caught the ball then they kicked it towards the goal. \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. Ben isn't coming to see the film because they've seen them already. \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. John waved to Lucas and he from the car. \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. Between you and I, the test has been moved to Friday. \_\_\_\_\_
- 11. When Roger walked into the boss' office, he was told to go home. \_\_\_\_\_
- 12. No matter what grade he earns on the test, they were glad they had studied. \_\_\_\_\_
- 13. Male birds are the most colorful; it attracts the females with his feathers. \_\_\_\_\_
- 14. The coach gave Kirby and I the red uniforms. \_\_\_\_\_
- 15. To lose weight, one must eat less and you must exercise more. \_\_\_\_\_
- 16. My partner and me were awarded the gold medal. \_\_\_\_\_
- 17. The writings of Darwin, who focused on evolution, are famous. \_\_\_\_\_
- 18. The new nation emerged; they overcame the challenges of dictatorship. \_\_\_\_\_
- 19. The gold medal was awarded to my partner and me. \_\_\_\_\_
- 20. The meeting is between the principal and I. \_\_\_\_\_

