

English Composition II: Pronoun Agreement & Pronoun Reference (Rule 24-25) Quick Reference Sheet

Try to write at least one example sentence to demonstrate each rule. You may make a correct or incorrect sentence—but don't get confused! Include any notes or explanation you need, too.

1. Indefinite Pronouns

(agreement in number)

As in S-V agreement; these indefinite pronouns are **singular**:

Every- / Any- / No- / Somebody	Every- / Any- / Someone / No one	Every- / Any- / No- / Something
Each	Either	Neither

Ex) Everyone wants his own toy.

Ex) If someone drives erratically, it is likely that she has been drinking.

* **NOTE:** Try a revision strategy that eliminates sexism or eliminates the need for a pronoun altogether.

2. Compound subjects

(agreement in number)

Same rule as S-V; most nouns joined by "and" are plural:

Ex) The college and the high school displayed their mascots in the parade.

3. (N)Either... (n)or

(agreement in number, gender)

Same rule as S-V; pay attention to the nearer **antecedent**:

Ex) Natalie or Roger should win the award for his poem.

Ex) Neither the mouse nor the rats could find their way through the maze.

4. Collective nouns

(agreement in number)

As with S-V agreement, keep them singular unless something in the sentence makes the noun definitely plural:

Ex) The team respects its competitors.

Ex) The board put their signatures on the petition. (a board can't have only one signature; **better:** The board members put...)