

Indefinite Pronouns

Indefinite pronouns do not refer to definite persons or things and do not always have antecedents. Indefinite pronouns may be singular or plural.

When they act as subjects, verbs must agree with them.

When they act as antecedents, pronouns must agree with them.

Use the singular possessive pronouns **his**, **her**, or **its**, with singular indefinite pronouns. Use the plural possessive pronoun **their** with plural indefinite pronouns.

Singular		Plural		Both
<i>one</i>		<i>both</i>		<i>some</i>
<i>another</i>		<i>few</i>		<i>all</i>
<i>each</i>		<i>many</i>		<i>most</i>
<i>either</i>		<i>several</i>		<i>none</i>
<i>neither</i>				<i>any</i>
<i>much</i>				
<i>anybody</i>	} <i>body</i>			
<i>somebody</i>				
<i>nobody</i>				
<i>everybody</i>				
<i>anything</i>	} <i>thing</i>			
<i>something</i>				
<i>nothing</i>				
<i>everything</i>				
<i>anyone</i>	} <i>one</i>			
<i>someone</i>				
<i>no one</i>				
<i>everyone</i>				

An **Indefinite pronoun** does not always refer to a particular person, place, or thing.

Underline the indefinite pronoun in each sentence. Then label each as *singular* or *plural*.

- Each of the first ten amendments to the Constitution guarantees an essential right. _____
- All of these amendments were adopted in 1791. _____
- Everyone is protected by the Bill of Rights. _____
- The First Amendment gives one the right to express basic beliefs. _____
- Nobody can prevent the exercise of religious freedom. _____
- Anyone may print an opinion in a newspaper. _____
- If somebody wishes to assemble peacefully in a group, the government may not stop the gathering. _____
- Few of the amendments are as important as the First Amendment. _____
- Was everyone considered a citizen in 1787? _____

Choose the correct possessive pronoun in the () and underline it. Circle the antecedent.

Example: Someone left (her or his, their) pen here.

1. Before the test, anyone can look at (his or her, their) book.
2. Neither of the girls was in (her, their) place.
3. Both of the boys inherited (his, their) mother's red hair.
4. Does anyone have (her, their) own flashlight?
5. Sooner or later, everyone must make (her or his, their) own decisions.
6. Each of the rabbits has (its, their) own pen.
7. At the trial, each of the witnesses told (her or his, their) story.
8. Many brought (their, her) own lunches.
9. Someone canceled (his, their) subscription.
10. Is there anybody who will donate (her, their) time?
11. Everybody went (her, their) own way.
12. Few in our class have reached (his or her, their) full height.
13. Neither of the contestants chose (her, their) best category.
14. Several of the trees were losing (its, their) leaves.
15. No one had (her, their) proper supplies.
16. Either Jim or Roger will lead (their, his) team to victory.
17. Each of the cars had (its, their) headlights dimmed in the thick fog.
18. Somebody left (their, his or her) address book on the window ledge.

When **Indefinite pronouns** act as subjects, verbs must agree with them.

Underline the indefinite pronoun in each sentence. Then circle the verb from the pair in parenthesis to complete each sentence.

1. Someone (is, are) knocking at the door.
2. I can't figure out where everybody (has, have) gone.
3. Sam felt sure many of his answers (was, were) wrong.
4. Neither of the boys (was, were) ready on time.
5. I looked down the street, but no one (was, were) there.
6. Why (doesn't, don't) both of you go shopping?
7. Are you sure that everything (is, are) packed for the trip?
8. I don't think anybody (has, have) been happier than Marcy.
9. Each of the players (seem, seems) bigger than the next!
10. (Is, Are) all of the stores open today?
11. None of Deborah's pets (is, are) Siamese cats.