

# Subject-Pronoun agreement

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# Definition

- Subject-Pronoun agreement is when the pronoun agrees with its subject in number and in gender.
- If the subject is singular, then the pronoun has to be singular in order to have agreement. The same goes for plural subjects with plural pronouns.

# Examples

Incorrect – When a driver wants to buy a new vehicle, they usually test drives them.

Correct - When a driver wants to buy a new vehicle, he or she usually test drives them.

- On the ACT, make sure to stay gender-neutral (“he or she” unless the gender is explicitly stated).
- Incorrect - Matt went to the store and she bought candy.
- Correct - Matt went to the store and he bought candy.

# Indefinite pronouns

- Indefinite pronouns: anyone, anybody, everyone, everybody, someone, somebody, no one, either, neither and nobody are always singular.

## Examples

- Incorrect – Everyone on the project have to come to the meeting.
- - Correct - Everyone on the project has to come to the meeting.

# Quiz

- 1. Every one of the participants \_\_\_\_\_ given a certificate of completion.  
A. Was      B. Were
- 2. Several of the nearby houses \_\_\_\_\_ flooded after the storm.  
A. Was      B. Were
- 3. Every student must hand in \_\_\_\_\_ project by the end of this week.  
A. Their      B. there      C. his      D. his or her
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_ anyone here read The Great Gatsby?  
A. Has      B. Have
- 5. They are performers who \_\_\_\_\_ chosen to direct the play.  
A. Was      B. Were

# Answers

- 1. was
- 2. were
- 3. his or her
- 4. Has
- 5. were