

## Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #24

---

### FOCUS Pronoun–Antecedents

A pronoun usually refers to an antecedent. An antecedent is a common noun, proper noun, or pronoun that comes before it. The antecedent can be a word, phrase, or a clause. The pronoun which refers to the antecedent must clearly match to avoid **pronoun–antecedent** confusion.

### CONNECT TO WRITING

- Make sure a singular pronoun matches a singular antecedent and a plural pronoun matches a plural antecedent.  
**Example:** When Bob asked for help, they did help.  
Problem—Who is *they*? Fix—When Bob asked his teachers for help, they did help.
- Make sure that the pronoun does *not* refer to the object in a prepositional phrase.  
**Example:** In Twain’s *The Celebrated Frog of Calaveras County*, he uses political humor.  
Problem—Who, or what, is *he*? Fix— In Twain’s *The Celebrated Frog of Calaveras County*, the author uses political humor.
- Make sure that the singular pronouns *this* and *that* and the plural pronouns *these* and *those* clearly refer to specific nouns or pronouns.  
**Example:** He made an egg, put the dog food in a bowl, and put this on his toast to eat.  
Problem—What is *this*? Fix—He made an egg and put it on his toast to eat. Then he put the dog food in its bowl.

### PRACTICE

Write the capital letter in the space provided that best describes these pronoun–antecedent errors: PN for a pronoun–antecedent number problem; OP for a pronoun using the object of the preposition as its antecedent; and T for an unclear *this*, *that*, *these*, or *those* antecedent.

- \_\_\_ 1. She ate a cookie and took an apple, and I want it back.
- \_\_\_ 2. Around Yolanda and her, she always acts strangely.
- \_\_\_ 3. There are lots of ribbons and bows. Do we need all of those?
- \_\_\_ 4. If they leave sooner than Don, he should phone his parents.
- \_\_\_ 5. The girls tried on hats and new shoes and asked the boys if they liked these.

### WRITE

Re-write one of the sentences in the PRACTICE section with clear pronoun antecedents.

---

---

## **Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet Answers**

### **Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #23 Practice Answers**

I told them myself IP because Patty would not tell them herself IP. Patty never thought of anyone but herself RP. When Patty first asked me herself IP, I said, “You should tell them what you did before they find out themselves RP.” Patty never apologized herself IP for what she did.

### **Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #24 Practice Answers**

1. PN 2. OP 3. T 4. PN 5. T

### **Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #25 Practice Answers**

1. who 2. whose 3. that 4. which 5. Whom

### **Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #26 Practice Answers**

1. Each watches her own television show. 2. Everyone except James and Pete helps me on the work project. 3. Both of them are ready for a vacation. 4. After they go to the movies, several go out for dessert. 5. Neither gives us much hope that our team will win the league this year. 6. I know others want to be involved in this decision.

### **Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #27 Practice Answers**

1. Few of the actors remember their lines. 2. A great deal is known about television actors. 3. Fewer vegetables are better than many. 4. Some of candies taste like they are stale.

### **Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #28 Practice Answers**

1. He has carefully listed his reasons for the purchase. 2. Paid a large amount for her services, the woman was happy to help. 3. Built by Native Americans, the caves were interesting. 4. They have never tried to sell any of their artwork.

### **Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #29 Practice Answers**

1. Waiting for the train, the young man paced impatiently. 2. He was expecting the train to arrive on time. 3. After calling his parents, the boy decided to cancel the ticket and come home. 4. Mostly, but not always, he will be travelling by jet from now on.

### **Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #30 Practice Answers**

1. Paula removed the backpack from her desk. She placed the backpack on the floor. (From her desk Paula removed the backpack and placed it on the floor.) 2. I ate only the fresh vegetables.