



## The Betty East Tutoring Center at Victoria College

Johnson Hall, Room 106  
2200 E. Red River St.  
Victoria, TX 77901  
361-571-6473

[www.victoriacollege.edu/tutoringcenter](http://www.victoriacollege.edu/tutoringcenter)

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### **Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement**

A pronoun is a word (he, she, it, they) that takes the place of a noun. The antecedent is the word the pronoun refers to or replaces. In a sentence, the antecedent comes before the pronoun. A pronoun must match with its antecedent in person, number, and gender. There are a few rules to follow to make sure they match up:

#### Singular Objects:

Two singular objects connected by conjunctions:

Example: Julie and Mike have chosen their costumes for the party.

Example: Gloria or Lisa has promised to lend me her book.

#### Plural Words:

Words such as both, several, and many are plural and require plural pronouns.

Example: Both of my cats ate their food.

#### Singular Subjects:

These words are always singular and must have singular pronouns when used as subjects: each, everybody, nobody, nothing, every, everything, somebody, either, everyone, anybody, someone, neither.

Example: Either of the boys will loan you his bike.

#### Prepositional Phrases:

A pronoun must agree with its antecedent, not with the object of a prepositional phrase.

Example: One of the boys kicked his bike.

#### Company Names:

Company names always require singular pronouns.

Example: Walmart's will soon have all its spring clothes on sale.

#### One Plural and One Singular Subject:

A subject joined by *or* or *nor* is singular and the other subject plural, the pronoun agrees with the closer word.

Example: Neither the dog nor the cats lost their collar.

#### Collective Nouns:

Nouns such as army, class, and family take different pronouns, depending on if they are singular or plural.

Example: The band plays its hardest piece.

