Pronoun Agreement – Exercise 1

This handout accompanies Exercise 1 of Grammar Bytes! Get the answers by doing the interactive version of the exercise at this address: http://chompchomp.com/exercises.htm

Directions: In the space provided, fix the underlined error.

______________1. Nobody knows that eating chocolate-broccoli muffins is a good way to provide their bodies with vitamin C.

______________2. The troupe of knife jugglers shocked their audience when a butcher knife accidentally decapitated the head of an old woman’s poodle.

______________3. Either the grill crew or the manager must give their permission for you to return that half-eaten double cheeseburger.

______________4. Both the computer monitor and the refrigerator door have its shiny surface smeared with dog snot from our curious puppy Oreo.

______________5. Which member of your track team makes their opponents resemble turtles trying to compete with a hare?

______________6. The catering committee for the Halloween dance received many compliments for their squid eyeball stew.

______________7. The new and improved laundry detergent restored Hector’s mud-stained pants to its original condition.

______________8. After feeding several quarters into the gumball machine, a person learns that they have little chance of receiving the miniature camera in the display.

______________9. Mrs. Carson, like every other American literature teacher, has their own interpretation of the symbols in Moby-Dick.

______________10. Every puppy and kitten will cry at night until their owner comes to carry it to bed.

______________11. My grandmother, as well as too many other Americans, believes every word they read in the National Enquirer.

______________12. If anyone wishes to try one of Louise’s famous fudge-stuffed mushrooms, they had better hurry before the guests devour all of these delicious treats.
13. Each of these computers has their own technical glitch that can frustrate the user.

14. If Tito’s Taco Palace continues to increase their prices, Samantha won’t be able to afford the cheapest lunch burrito.

15. Tito’s Taco Palace stuffs their tortillas with many unusual items; for example, you can order peanut butter and octopus burritos or tarantula and mango tacos.

16. Every neighbor on my street looked up in surprise as the giant spaceship descended from the sky and hovered above their heads.

17. Someone in the apartment needs to remember to buy shampoo unless everyone wants to wash their hair tomorrow morning with dish soap.

18. Neither Floyd the dog nor Madison’s three cats enjoy sleeping on the hard, cold floor when he can jump onto the soft, warm bed as soon as she leaves for work.

19. These two young men will not pass the final exam in Fundamentals of Biology because he has spent the semester flirting with the pretty Josephine instead of listening to Dr. Shuman.

20. Not only the crickets but also a frog chirped outside David’s window for so long last night that they kept the poor boy from getting any rest before his important pronoun agreement quiz.
Pronoun Agreement – Exercise 2

This handout accompanies Exercise 2 of Grammar Bytes! Get the answers by doing the interactive version of the exercise at this address: http://chompchomp.com/exercises.htm

Directions: In the space provided, fix the underlined error.

_____________1. Everyone knows that they will suffer indigestion after eating a chocolate-broccoli muffin.

_____________2. After accidentally decapitating the old woman's poodle, the knife jugglers jumped into its van and sped away.

_____________3. Neither the crew members nor the manager will open their register to refund your money for that half-eaten hamburger.

_____________4. Fingerprints and dog snot dull both the computer monitor and refrigerator door, so we better clean it before Grandma comes for dinner.

_____________5. That runner on the track team always wins races because they have no fear of leaving some skin on the pavement.

_____________6. The catering committee did not care that their squid eyeball stew made everyone at the Halloween dance violently ill.

_____________7. The new and improved laundry detergent uses their special powers to clean the chocolate sauce from Cheryl’s new skirt.

_____________8. A person who eats too many jawbreakers risks loosening their fillings and chipping his teeth.

_____________9. Mr. Smith, like Beverly and Jeremiah, has decided to spend their lunch break eating pepperoni pizza at the campus cafeteria.

_____________10. With the right training, every puppy and kitten eventually learns not to urinate on their owner's floor.

_____________11. My grandmother, as well as many other older women, believes that they should wait until a man calls her, rather than calling the man first.

_____________12. If anyone needs Pepto Bismol after eating a fudge-stuffed mushroom, they should rush to the bathroom before the entire bottle is gone.
13. The boss rambled for forty-five long minutes before he finally sat down and shut up. Everyone in the room wished that they had bought a cup of coffee before coming to the meeting.

14. So boring was the lecture that Cindy focused solely on her professor's moving hands; it jumped and twitched like electrified spiders on the surface of the podium.

15. Every piece of Debra’s jewelry glittered in the light; they gave the impression that Debra had been dipped in gold.

16. Each of Mike's ties has such a colorful psychedelic pattern that they hypnotize the people who see it.

17. The committee made a unanimous decision to use their bake sale funds to buy plane tickets to Hawaii instead of new uniforms for the band members.

18. Eli needed scissors to cut through the thick mailing tape that wrapped the box of chocolate-covered ants sent from Mom, but he couldn't find it anywhere.

19. Neither Oreo, my dog, nor Blaze and Chance, my cousins, will give up his cookie, even if I ask politely.

20. The faculty believes that their mission is to prepare students to be good citizens as well as good employees.
This handout accompanies Exercise 3 of *Grammar Bytes!* Get the answers by doing the interactive version of the exercise at this address: [http://chompchomp.com/exercises.htm](http://chompchomp.com/exercises.htm)

**Directions:** In the space provided, fix the underlined error.

1. If everyone picked up a single piece of litter every day, **they** would discover that the planet would become a much cleaner place.

2. The Committee of Victorious Vegetarians picketed the cafeteria so that **they** could protest the cruel and unusual treatment of plant matter by the cooks.

3. Not only the city council members but also the mayor donated **their** lunch money to a downtown shelter for World Hunger Day.

4. My thirty-six-year-old brother still prizes a squirrel skull and a cigar box full of baseball cards because **it** is a relic from his happy childhood.

5. While they were watching the Battle of the Bands, Mark and Pedro made bets on which musician of Nuclear Toasters would trash **their** guitar first.

6. When a tornado appeared on the horizon, the family agreed that **they** would have to postpone the picnic.

7. Jenny almost stabbed her husband Bill with the $150 sewing scissors because he had used **it** to cut roofing shingles.

8. Before a person adopts a big, hairy dog, **they need** to consider the amount of time spent vacuuming the floors.

9. Captain Kirk, as well as the other bridge crew, denied that **they** had dented the right thruster of the *Enterprise* while buzzing a Romulan outpost.

10. Every student, professor, librarian, groundskeeper, secretary, and coach cheered **their** approval when the cafeteria staff agreed to treat vegetables more kindly.

11. My friend Eric, like too many students in our Basic Spanish class, believes that **they don't** need to learn a foreign language.
12. If a person wants to eat healthy fast food, they should try Tito’s Taco Palace because it generously provides at least four ounces of high-protein insects in every tortilla.

13. Neither of those two surfers realizes their dangling arms and splashing legs are captivating a hungry shark cruising under the waves.

14. Either Ryan or his brothers will give his socks to a complete stranger complaining about blisters.

15. Each pig, chicken, goose, and rabbit breathed a sigh of relief and wiped the proverbial sweat from their brows when Farmer Jackson grabbed a rake instead of the butchering hatchet.

16. My friends would argue less if everyone kept opinions about basketball, music, and women to themselves.

17. After closing the restaurant, the pizzeria staff drove home, fell into its bed, and dreamed about things as diverse as Corvettes, poodles, and skies full of spinning pepperoni slices.

18. Bernie’s Burger Emporium claims that their burgers are low fat, but the optional condiments I need to make the dry patties palatable add plenty of calories.

19. Not only the cats but also Jasper the dog believes that the bed is theirs, and humans are permitted to sleep on it only because they warm the mattress.

20. When classes begin this year, Edgewater High School will allow their students to have piercings only in their ears.
Pronoun Agreement – Exercise 4

This handout accompanies Exercise 4 of Grammar Bytes! Get the answers by doing the interactive version of the exercise at this address: [http://chompchomp.com/exercises.htm](http://chompchomp.com/exercises.htm)

Directions: In the space provided, fix the underlined error.

1. If **every student** writes the required 6,000 words for the research essay, they will keep poor Prof. O’Brien busy grading papers until the end of the semester.

2. My weird neighbors believe that the Loch Ness Monster ate Elvis, but **he or she disagrees** that space aliens have kidnapped the brain of the President.

3. During away games, neither the basketball players nor Coach Jones can get **their** beauty sleep because the college vans bounce along on bad shock absorbers.

4. Both the living room furniture and the kitchen counter have **its surface** scarred from cigarettes that my chain-smoking Aunt Mary carelessly put down.

5. Watching the new recruits marching in the hot sun, the two drill sergeants made bets on which soldier would be the first to vomit **their** lunch during the strenuous exercise.

6. When the earthquake shook everyone awake, the family dashed outside without worrying about **their** possessions in the house.

7. After using the scissors to trim a loose thread on his new suit, Marvin left **it** on the couch where his mother later stabbed her thigh on the sharp points.

8. Before a **person buys a car with a V-8 engine**, they need to think about the frequent trips to the gas pump to fill the tank.

9. A **crew member on the Enterprise learns** never to make bald jokes in front of Captain Picard, for he will make them scrub all fifty transporter pads with a toothbrush.

10. All of the clowns, acrobats, animal trainers, and audience members gasped in horror when **he or she** saw the knife juggler accidentally slice off his own hand with a chainsaw.
11. Both of my sisters believe that Mom and Dad love our brother Fred more than her.

12. If students want to do well on the pronoun agreement quiz, he or she should have faithfully studied all of the rules governing agreement.

13. The nursing program at the college can boast that their students often have a 100 percent pass rate on the state boards.

14. Each of these NFL players will tell you about a game when they played despite a pulled muscle, injured knee, or cracked rib.

15. The city’s marine aquarium spends thousands of dollars a day to feed their animals fresh fish, crustaceans, and seaweed flown in from around the world.

16. The class members brought his or her heavy textbooks only to discover that an amiable substitute teacher was showing a movie that required no note-taking.

17. After complaining about aching backs, the class enjoyed their day of respite from old Mr. Matthews and his nonstop lecturing.

18. Not only the customers but also the cashier ran for the door when they saw the giant green Martian walk into the diner.

19. Neither the raw oysters nor the crispy fried squid tentacles appeal to Christine, who would never consider letting it touch her lips.

20. At the neighborhood grocery store, all the cashiers, shoppers, and managers held his or her breath as a circus ringmaster led a baby elephant down the snack aisle to buy peanuts.
Pronoun Agreement – Exercise 5

This handout accompanies Exercise 5 of Grammar Bytes! Get the answers by doing the interactive version of the exercise at this address: [http://chompchomp.com/exercises.htm](http://chompchomp.com/exercises.htm)

Directions: Choose the option that corrects an error in the underlined portion(s). If no error exists, choose “No change is necessary.”

1. If **everyone** thoughtfully used turn signals, **they** would find that **their** daily commute required less honking, cursing, and fist shaking.
   
   A. drivers  
   B. he or she  
   C. his or her  
   D. No change is necessary.

2. Before students bite into a cafeteria sandwich, **they** should lift the bun and check for caterpillars in the lettuce.
   
   A. he  
   B. she  
   C. he or she  
   D. No change is necessary.

3. When **swimmers** ignore the instructions of lifeguards, **they** might drown, get stung by **jellyfish**, or have **his or her** legs chewed off by hungry sharks.
   
   A. a swimmer  
   B. he or she  
   C. their  
   D. No change is necessary.

4. Not only the attorneys but also the judge rolled **their** eyes in disbelief when Larry claimed that Fluff-Ball, the family poodle, ordered him to rob a bank.
   
   A. his or her  
   B. her  
   C. its  
   D. No change is necessary.
5. The class voted unanimously to write one long research paper instead of several short essays for its final grade. But once the difficult projects began, some students wished that they could change their minds.

A. their  
B. he or she  
C. his or her  
D. No change is necessary.

6. The team agreed that their strategy of fair play was ineffective against the constantly cheating Tyson High Tigers.

A. his  
B. his or her  
C. its  
D. No change is necessary.

7. All of the car's paint has lost its shine, and most of the tires have lost its tread. Some of the engine components, however, can still perform their job.

A. their shine  
B. their tread  
C. its  
D. No change is necessary.

8. Neither of my best friends believes that death is a reality for them. During the weekend, these two buddies spend their time jumping out of airplanes, never worrying that their parachutes might not open.

A. him  
B. his time  
C. his parachute  
D. No change is necessary.

9. Someone needs to move their car out of Gloria's parking spot immediately; otherwise a tow truck will happily move his vehicle for him.

A. his  
B. their  
C. them  
D. No change is necessary.
10. Tony refuses to eat at Bernie’s Burger Emporium because their onions make his breath stink so badly that his girlfriend won't kiss him for three days.

A. his
B. his or her
C. its
D. No change is necessary.

11. Everyone should dissect a frog for Dr. Wright because the extra credit points will help them improve their averages at the end of the semester.

A. Biology students
B. him or her
C. his or her
D. No change is necessary.

12. During the pep rally, not only the cheerleaders but also Dr. Stover, the principal, shouted as loudly as they could to inspire the basketball team to win.

A. he or she
B. she
C. it
D. No change is necessary.

13. Both Diane and her cat, Big Toe Joe, take her or his afternoon naps under the green quilt on the living room sofa.

A. his
B. its
C. their
D. No change is necessary.

14. At Antonio's Restaurant, every waiter wanted to take a break after he had taken care of his guests, but all of the managers wanted them to take a break at strictly scheduled times.

A. they
B. their
C. the waiters
D. No change is necessary.
15. Aunt Louisa’s barking Chihuahuas so startled poor Carolina, who was sound asleep on the living room sofa, that she threw a book at it.

A. them  
B. her  
C. him or her  
D. No change is necessary.

16. Yesterday when Amir was in his calculus class, Samantha's snoring and Beverly's bubble gum smacking were so loud that they distracted him from Dr. Armour's lecture.

A. he  
B. she  
C. he or she  
D. No change is necessary.

17. In Jack's kitchen, each cup, plate, bowl, and glass has their rim chipped by careless dishwashing.

A. his  
B. his or her  
C. its  
D. No change is necessary.

18. An explosive crash made every patron, server, hostess, and manager turn his or her head in Isaiah's direction. They could not believe how red the poor boy turned as he stood amid the pile of dish fragments.

A. their  
B. These people  
C. it  
D. No change is necessary.

19. Leroy bought new jeans at the mall for two reasons: they had a great sale, and the saleswoman told him that she thought he had a cute butt.

A. the store had  
B. told it  
C. it had  
D. No change is necessary.
Melissa washed her new pants because they had gotten muddy in the rain.

Unfortunately, the hot water shrank the cotton fabric, so Melissa found scissors and used it to cut the pants into shorts. These shorts became her favorite pair because they showed off her beautiful legs.

A. it had
B. them
C. it showed
D. No change is necessary.