

## ANSWERS—MORE Pronouns

ENG 1A—WALL

### Three common pronoun problems:

#### 1. Shifts in number.

- Incorrect: Each of the boys has **their** own bike.
- Correct: Each of the boys has **his** own bike. (“Each” means “each **one**.”)
- Note: Indefinite pronouns are always SINGULAR. Examples include *anybody, anyone, anything, each, either, everybody, everyone, everything, neither, no one, nobody, nothing, one, somebody, someone, something*

#### 2. Shifts in person.

- Incorrect: **My** patience runs thin when **one** is caught in heavy traffic.
- Correct: **My** patience runs thin when **I** am caught in heavy traffic.

#### 3. Unclear pronoun reference.

- Incorrect: Michael gave Frank **his** keys.
- Correct: Michael gave **his** keys to Frank.

### Shifts in number. Circle the correct pronoun:

1. Many restaurants in town post (its, **their**) menus in the window.
2. Neither of my uncles has ever smoked in (**his**, their) life.
3. Each of the girls invited (**her**, their) mother to the luncheon.
4. Everything in the office has (**its**, their) proper place.

### Shifts in person. Circle the correct pronoun:

5. I try to save money, but (**I**, you) really can't when (**my** one's) job pays such a low wage.

6. People who drink soda don't realize how many calories (you, they) take in that way.

7. Dog owners should put tags on their dogs in case (you, they) lose their pets.

**Unclear pronoun reference.** Circle the unclear pronoun and explain what is unclear about it.

8. Howard told Jesse he was in danger of failing math if he didn't study harder.

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9. Nina told her mother she was late for a doctor's appointment.

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10. For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs. (taken from a church bulletin)

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