

Indefinite Pronouns

An *indefinite pronoun* refers to one or more persons, places, things, or ideas that may or may not be specifically named. Some common indefinite pronouns are *all, another, anybody, both, each, either, everyone, many, nothing, several, and some*.

EXAMPLES A few of the students had already read **most** of the books on the list.

EXERCISE Underline the indefinite pronouns in the following sentences.

Example 1. She knew the answers to all of the questions except one.

1. Everyone who went to the space camp had a wonderful experience.
2. Will you tell the others that the meeting has been canceled?
3. None of these keys will unlock either of those doors.
4. This peach is sweet. May I have another?
5. She can run faster than anyone on the school's track team.
6. I have read many of her short stories.
7. Is anything wrong? You act as if something is troubling you.
8. Ken and I spent much of July, August, September, and October working on a Kentucky horse farm.
9. Someone told me that the bald eagle is no longer on the list of endangered species.
10. The teacher asked, "Can anybody in the class name the capital of each of the states?"
11. A few of these baseball cards are extremely valuable.
12. Are you able to save any of your weekly allowance?
13. The performances by both of the comedians were hilarious!
14. Most of us have already seen that movie.
15. All but one of the club members voted to increase the membership dues.
16. Do we have everything we need for the picnic?
17. Neither of these flashlights works.
18. No one was absent from school today.
19. The principal requested that several of the art students paint a colorful mural on a wall of the school's lobby.
20. In their search for gold, some of the early prospectors found nothing but "fool's gold," or iron pyrite, which looks like gold.

Now:

- Use your notes!
- 1) Highlight all the always singular pronouns in pink.
 - 2) Highlight all the always plural pronouns in blue.
 - 3) Highlight the rest of the indefinite pronouns and label them (S)ingular or (P)lural.

Pronouns and Antecedents

12b. A *pronoun* is a word that is used in place of one or more nouns or pronouns.

The word that a pronoun stands for or refers to is called the *antecedent* of the pronoun. The pronoun may appear in the same sentence as its antecedent or in a nearby sentence.

EXAMPLES The **children** gave **themselves** a big hand. [The antecedent of the pronoun *themselves* is *children*.]

Don and **Carla** finally solved the algebra **problem**. **They** had worked on **it** a long time. [The antecedents of the pronoun *They* are *Don* and *Carla*; the antecedent of the pronoun *it* is *problem*.]

EXERCISE A Underline the pronouns in the following sentences. Then, draw an arrow from each pronoun to its antecedent.

Example 1. Kendra searched for her ring, but she never found it.

- Cesar invited his friends to go camping with him.
- Erica said she had prepared the whole meal herself.
- Why are the baseball players wearing their caps backward?
- Jody and Michelle gathered things for a time capsule and buried it in their backyard.
- Loni wore her suede boots in the snow. Now they are probably stained.
- Juanita lent Dominic her calculator. He had left his in his locker.
- Brian and Marla play golf whenever they can. It is their favorite sport.
- Ahmal hopes to compete in the next Olympic games. Where will they be held?
- Did Carolyn sprain her ankle while she was skating?
- Carlos and Ann decided they could not stay indoors on such a beautiful day.

EXERCISE B Above the underlined words and word groups in the following sentences, write the pronouns that can correctly replace the underlined words and word groups.

Example 1. To many people, Jim Abbott is a hero. ^{They} Many people have found Jim Abbott's ^{his} courage and determination inspiring.

- Baseball requires various talents and skills; the sport also demands great strength and stamina.
- Jim Abbott played professional baseball despite the fact that Jim Abbott has only a thumb and no fingers on Jim Abbott's right hand.
- Jim Abbott's disability did not stop Jim Abbott from succeeding as a major league pitcher.
- Ed thought Ed had a baseball card showing Jim Abbott in Jim Abbott's New York Yankees uniform.
- Perhaps the baseball card is in one of these other boxes. Let's look through these other boxes.