

NOUN — PRONOUN AGREEMENT

SINGULAR AND PLURAL

SINGULAR NOUNS / SINGULAR PRONOUNS

1. The following nouns and/or pronouns are **singular**. All pronouns and verbs used to refer to them are also **always singular**.

Do not use the plural pronoun they to refer to these singular nouns and connecting words!

each	everyone	none
anybody	anyone	no one
either	one	nobody
everybody	someone	somebody
neither	he	she
it	I	person
man	woman	girl
boy	kind	an
a	nor	or

Also: Use singular pronouns when referring to *all singular nouns, all collective nouns* (the team, the staff, the committee, the jury, etc.), and *titles of single works which are singular in meaning*.

2. Nouns or pronouns joined by **or** or **nor** are **usually** singular.
Singular example: *The dog or the cat* got into the garbage. *He/She* should be disciplined.
Plural example: *The cats or the dogs* got into the garbage. *They* should be disciplined.
3. Using singular nouns or pronouns when a compound noun refers to a singular unit.
Example: The *scholar and doctor*, Leslie Doe, wrote the book. *She* spent three years researching the subject.
4. If a singular noun *and* a plural noun are connected by a word from the abovelist, the pronoun (and verb) referring to the noun(s) must agree with the noun closest to the verb in the sentence.
Singular example: *The books or the paper* is at home. Jane left *it* there yesterday.
Plural example: *The paper or the books* are at home. Jane left *them* there yesterday.
5. Use a singular pronoun when referring to collective nouns and phrases which are a fixed quantity and a single unit or group (i.e. a team, the group, a couple, the family, etc.).
Example: *The number* has decreased. *It* has always been small.
The audience gave a standing ovation. *It* loved the show.

6. Collective nouns and phrases which refer to individuals or parts of a group, take a plural pronoun.

Example: *Most of us* went to the movies. *We* had a great time.

Three team members went out for pizza after the game. *They* were happy to leave the field.

PLURAL NOUNS / PLURAL PRONOUNS

1. The following subjects and/or pronouns are plural. All pronouns and verbs used to refer to them are also always plural.

You may, under most circumstances, use the pronoun they to refer to these subjects!

several	few	both
many	those	some
they	we	you
these	men	women
girls	boys	<i>all plural nouns</i>

2. Subjects joined by and are usually plural.

Plural example: The dog and cat are playing. They love the outdoors.

Singular example: The scholar and doctor, Leslie Doe, wrote the book. She spent three years researching the book.

3. The following words may be singular or plural depending on the number of things to which the writer/speaker is referring.

some	none	any	all
------	------	-----	-----

4. Always use the relative pronouns who or whom when referring to a person or persons. Only use that or which when referring to an inanimate object or objects, or to an animal or animals.

Examples: He was a man who loved teaching.

My poodle was the one that won the prize.