

Making the Right Match: Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement Exercise

Solutions

Pronouns and antecedents are underlined.

1. Smokers are at risk for contracting lung cancer.
(This sentence works better when rewritten to avoid the pronoun-antecedent conundrum. That it's more concise is an added benefit.)
2. Dog owners like to think their dogs are the smartest.
3. The jury reached its decision after only deliberating only one hour.
(Jury is a collective noun because it acts as a unit, so it must be treated as a singular noun.)
4. Whenever professors give a lecture, they should prepare ahead of time. (The plural is gender neutral.)
5. Gardeners often use their own trucks. (C)
(*Gardeners* is a plural noun; *their* is a plural pronoun, so the sentence is correct.)
6. Contractors who never arrive on time leave their clients unhappy.
7. When people are looking for an apartment to rent, they should check rentals.com.
8. All cast members in the play knew their lines by heart.
9. People don't know when they will die. (The collective noun *people* does not act as a unit, so it is considered plural.) OR: We don't know when we will die. (Collective *we*.)
10. My parents have individual checking accounts.
(This sentence works better rewritten for conciseness and clarity.)
11. Many coffee shops often sell pastries to their customers.
A coffee shop often sells pastries to its customers.
12. Homeowners have to pay their taxes on time or face severe penalties.
13. Parents like to make sure their children are safe even after they have become adults.
14. Audiences showed their appreciation for the play with a standing ovation.
The audience showed its appreciation for the play with a standing ovation.
15. People who get an "A" in the class should share their study techniques.