# Pronoun-antecedent agreement & pronoun case

A pronoun must agree with its antecedent in number: a singular antecedent. . .



Lesson `rw.conventions.W4`

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# The idea

*A pronoun must agree with its antecedent in number: a singular antecedent (including a company, an organization, or an indefinite like everyone) takes a singular pronoun; a plural antecedent takes a plural one. Pronoun CASE depends on the role: subject pronouns (I, he, she, they, who) act as subjects, and object pronouns (me, him, her, them, whom) act as objects, including after prepositions.*

*Does the pronoun match its antecedent in number? What role does it play (subject or object)? Is its reference clear?*

*Match number to the antecedent. Pick subject vs object case by role; in a compound, test by dropping the other element. Use who/whom by subject/object. If reference is ambiguous, replace the pronoun with the noun.*

# Watch every step

The award was shared between Maria and ___.

**Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?**

- **A.** me
- **B.** I ✗ *case error*
- **C.** myself ✗ *case error*
- **D.** mine ✗ *case error*

**Why** **A** — "me." Choose the pronoun with the right number, case, and clear reference.

# Now a harder one

The scientist ___ discovered the comet received a prestigious award.

**Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?**

- **A.** who
- **B.** whom ✗ *who/whom error*
- **C.** which ✗ *who/whom error*
- **D.** whose ✗ *who/whom error*

**Why A** — "who." Choose the pronoun with the right number, case, and clear reference.

# The method, in one line

**Pronoun-antecedent agreement & pronoun case**

Match number to the antecedent. Pick subject vs object case by role; in a compound, test by dropping the other element. Use who/whom by subject/object. If reference is ambiguous, replace the pronoun with the noun.

*Number agrees with the antecedent? Case fits the role (object after a preposition)? Who vs whom correct? Does the pronoun point to exactly one antecedent?*

# Watch out: two traps to dodge

**⚠ antecedent number error**

Uses a plural pronoun for a singular antecedent (such as a company or organization) or vice versa.

**⚠ case error**

Uses the wrong case, especially a subject pronoun where an object is needed (e.g. 'between Maria and I') or a reflexive in place of an object pronoun.

*Name the trap before you pick — most wrong answers are one of these two.*

## Try it, then watch the walk-through

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