

Exercise for singular indefinite pronouns like "everyone"

Directions: Each sentence below is grammatically incorrect in number because it mixes a singular indefinite pronoun with a plural pronoun. Edit each sentence to make it correct and also make it gender neutral. If it is obvious that the pronoun would be a "he" or a "she," feel free to use the appropriate pronoun. Use a separate piece of paper, if necessary.

1. Every child has a right to eat their breakfast before going to school.
2. Each singer wanted to ace their audition.
3. Everybody but Anne did their homework.
4. Neither firefighter could find their boots.
5. Nobody should have to eat their lunch alone.
6. No clown would forget to wear their big, floppy shoes.
7. Either sister will do an excellent job because they are so proficient.

8. Every cheerleader will try on their new skirts at 3:00 p.m.

9. Anybody who sees a felony being committed can say, “Citizen’s arrest,” and have their voice count.

10. On Monday, each member of the Spanish Club is to bring their food made from a recipe in a Spanish cookbook.

11. Someone knows the truth about this accident, but they aren’t coming forward.

12. Anyone who still believes in phrenology needs to have their head examined.

13. A trapeze artist knows how important it is to be able to trust their partner.

14. For a student to schedule his/her six hours of behind-the-wheel instructions, he/she must have his/her permit from the license branch.

Answers:

Possible answers are below. The first answer is correct grammatically; the second (and sometimes third) is gender neutral.

1. Every child has a right to eat their breakfast before going to school.

Every child has a right to eat his breakfast before going to school.

Every child has a right to eat breakfast before going to school.

Children have the right to eat breakfast before going to school.

2. Each singer wanted to ace their audition.

Each singer wanted to ace his audition.

Each singer wanted to ace the audition.

Singers wanted to ace their auditions.

3. Everybody but Anne did their homework.

Everybody but Anne did his homework.

Everybody but Anne did the homework.

4. Neither firefighter could find their boots.

Neither firefighter could find his boots.

Both firefighters could not find their boots.

5. Nobody should have to eat their lunch alone.

Nobody should have to eat his lunch alone.

Nobody should have to eat lunch alone.

6. No clown would forget to wear their big, floppy shoes.

No clown would forget to wear his big, floppy shoes.

No clown would forget to wear big, floppy shoes.

7. Either sister will do an excellent job because they are so proficient.

Either sister will do an excellent job because she is so proficient.

Both sisters will do an excellent job because they are so proficient.

8. Every cheerleader will try on their new skirts at 3:00 p.m.

Every cheerleader will try on her new skirt at 3:00 p.m.

Cheerleaders will try on their new skirts at 3:00 p.m.

9. Anybody who sees a felony being committed can say, "Citizen's arrest," and have their voice count.

Anybody who sees a felony being committed can say, "Citizen's arrest," and have his voice count.

People who see a felony being committed can say, "Citizen's arrest," and have their voice count.

10. On Monday, each member of the Spanish Club is to bring their food made from a recipe in a Spanish cookbook.

On Monday, each member of the Spanish Club is to bring his food made from a recipe in a Spanish cookbook.

On Monday, members of the Spanish Club are to bring their food made from a recipe in a Spanish cookbook.

11. Someone knows the truth about this accident, but they aren't coming forward.

Someone knows the truth about this accident, but he isn't coming forward.

Someone knows the truth about this accident but isn't coming forward.

12. Anyone who still believes in phrenology needs to have their head examined.

Anyone who still believes in phrenology needs to have his head examined.

People who still believe in phrenology need to have their heads examined.

13. A trapeze artist knows how important it is to be able to trust their partner.

A trapeze artist knows how important it is to be able to trust his partner.

Trapeze artists know how important it is to be able to trust their partners.

14. For a student to schedule his/her six hours of behind-the-wheel instructions, he/she must have his/her permit from the license branch.

For a student to schedule his six hours of behind-the-wheel instructions, he must have his permit from the license branch.

Before students can schedule their six hours of behind-the-wheel instructions, they must have their permit from the license branch.