

Antecedents

An **antecedent** is the word to which a pronoun refers.

Stars are lovely when **they** shine.



A pronoun must agree with its **antecedent** in **gender** (masculine, feminine, or neutral) and **number** (singular or plural).

Susan helped **her** friend.

The people went in **their** cars.

If the **antecedent** is an **indefinite** pronoun, it is correct to use a masculine pronoun, or both a masculine and feminine pronoun together.

Someone lost **his** dog.

Someone lost **his or her** dog.

Underline the correct pronoun, and circle its antecedent.

1. Everyone should work hard at (their, his or her) job.
2. Each of the children willingly did (his or her, their) share.
3. Sophia gave me (her, their) coat to wear.
4. I took (my, our) friend to the ceremony.
5. All members were asked to bring (his or her, their) contributions.
6. The women have had (her, their) vacation.
7. Someone has left (his or her, their) automobile unlocked.
8. If each does (his or her, their) best, our chorus will win.
9. Would you tell Joanne that (her, his) soup is ready?
10. Every woman did (her, their) best to make the program great.

An **relative pronoun** is a pronoun that can introduce a subordinate clause.

Who

Whom

Whose



Referring to persons.

Which

That



Referring to things.

Who versus Whom

Who is a subject pronoun.

Who came to dinner?

He, She,

We, They

Whom is an object pronoun.

Whom did that nurse help?

Him, Her,

Them

Formative Assessment

Write the correct pronoun, then its antecedent.

1. Every woman furnishes (her, their) own transportation.
2. Jeff and Tom found (his, their) cabin in the dark.
3. Cliff brings his dog every time (he, she) visits.
4. The bird was in (their, its) nest.

Write the relative pronoun, then its antecedent.

5. Is this the file for which you've been searching?
6. We have a rare animal that lives in our zoo.
7. Da Vinci is the artist whose work they most admire.

Complete the sentence with Who or Whom.

8. Who wrote that clever poem?
9. Whom did you help last week?
10. Whom will you ask to help you move?