

## Exercises for Grammar for Grad Students #1 (answers on the back)

### Subject-Verb Agreement<sup>1</sup>

In each sentence, choose the correct form of the verb in parentheses

1. Neither time nor affluence (remove/removes) memories of childhood poverty.
2. Experiences of poor children (illustrate/illustrates) how significant money and status (is/are) in our society.
3. Some adults (think/thinks) their mother or father (was/were) responsible for their attitudes about money.
4. Their current understanding of their parents' past problems with money often (provide/provides) little solace.
5. A number of adults (overcome/overcomes) the stigma of having been poor as children.
6. There (is/are) affluent children who also (develop/develops) unhealthy attitudes about money.

### Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement<sup>2</sup>

Choose the correct pronoun to ensure proper pronoun-antecedent agreement.

7. Each of the suspects had (his or her/their) own alibi.
8. Jeff and Isabel planned (his and her/their) wedding.
9. Neither the nails nor the hammer was returned to (its/their) proper place.
10. Everyone turned in (his or her/their) drama reviews in advance of the due date.
11. If any one of the students has misplaced (his or her/their) lunch ticket, (he or she/they) can ask for a replacement from the Ms. Ima Hungry, the lunch lady.
12. The state of Florida does not treat (its/their) public employees fairly.
13. Both of the women have made (her/their) opinions known.
14. Every one of the actresses knows (her/their) part by heart.
15. Before the guests began arriving, Sally asked Tim whether everything was in (its/their) place.
16. Neither of the candidates wore clothing suitable for (his or her/their) interview.

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<sup>1</sup> **Source:** Glenn, Cheryl, Loretta Gray, Robert Miller, Suzanne Webb, and John Hodges. *The Hodges Harbrace Handbook*. 15th ed. Boston: Cengage Learning, 2004. Print.

<sup>2</sup> Dalton State Writing Lab. (n.d.). Pronoun/Antecedent Agreement Practice 3. Retrieved June 12, 2017, from [https://dscweb.daltonstate.edu/writing-lab/writing-lab-practice-exercises/pronoun\\_agreement\\_3.htm](https://dscweb.daltonstate.edu/writing-lab/writing-lab-practice-exercises/pronoun_agreement_3.htm)

**Answers:**

1. removes
2. illustrate
3. think; was
4. provides
5. overcome
6. are; develop
7. All are acceptable: “his or her” (traditional rules) and “their” (modern non-biased language)
8. their
9. its
10. All are acceptable: “his or her” (traditional rules) and “their” (modern non-biased language)
11. All are acceptable: “his or her”; “he or she” (traditional) and “their”; “they” (modern)
12. its
13. their
14. her
15. its
16. All are acceptable: “his or her” (traditional rules) and “their” (modern non-biased language)