

The basic concepts related to Pronouns are now already with you. Let us venture a little further, and see situations in which we meet the Pronouns.

Pitfalls to avoid when using different forms of Pronouns

Indefinite Pronouns

(everyone, anyone, someone, no one ... etc.)

Words like *anyone, anybody, everyone, everybody, someone, somebody, no one, and nobody* are Pronouns as they refer to people or things in general.

They are all singular in form hence require singular verbs.

Misuse: Everyone at SharpMinds were appearing for CAT

Correct: Everyone at SharpMinds *was* appearing for CAT

Possessive pronouns in "none/not one" sentences.

Misuse: *Not one* of the friends offered *their* support.

Correct: *Not one* of the friends offered *his or her* support.

Correct: *None* of the friends offered *their* support.

(None is a portion word and is plural here because of friends.)

Not one can only take a singular possessive pronoun like *his* or *her* and not *their*.

But "none", though it means 'not one' can take singular or plural possessive pronoun as well as singular or plural verb in sentences. In short we have to be a little careful with 'none'. Go for the plural if the subject under reference can take plural. Go for the singular if the subject under reference cannot be plural. This is slightly tricky anyhow. If you are in doubt with 'none' and the verb/pronoun it should take, go for the plural. You stand a good chance to be right.

Correct: *None* of the eggs *are* hatched.

Correct: *None* of the furniture *has been* moved.

In the eggs sentence, eggs can take plural verb; but in the furniture sentence, furniture can never take plural verb.

Let us now move on to something else related to pronouns.

Pronouns and Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement

A pronoun usually refers to something earlier in the text (its antecedent) and must agree in number – singular/plural – with the thing to which it refers.

Prepositions in Parallel Form

(There is a separate section for Parallelism .You may refer to that now or later)

When two words or phrases are used in parallel and require the same preposition to be idiomatically correct, the preposition does not have to be used twice.

Misuse: You can wear that outfit *in* summer and *in* winter.

Correct : You can wear that outfit *in* summer and winter.

Misuse: The female was both attracted *by* and distracted *by* the male's dance.

Correct: The female was both attracted and distracted *by* the male's dance.

However, when the idiomatic use of phrases calls for different prepositions, we must ***be careful not to omit one*** of them.

Misuse: The children were interested and disgusted *in* the movie

Correct: The children were interested *in* and disgusted *by* the movie.

Misuse: It was clear that this player could both contribute and learn *from* every game he played.

Correct: It was clear that this player could both contribute *to* and learn *from* every game he played.

Problems with prepositions

Do not use extra prepositions when the meaning is clear without them.

Misuse: Where did he go *to*?

Correct: Where did he go?

Misuse: Where did you get this *from*?

Correct: Where did you get this?

Misuse: Cut it *up* into small pieces.

Correct: Cut it into small pieces.

What is the difference between 'Among us' and 'Between Us'?

Between refers to two. *Among* is used for three or more.

Correct: The father divided his money equally *between* the son and the daughter

Correct: He divided his property *among* his three children.