

JESI, 2009: Pronoun Reference

Student writers will sometimes use an incorrect pronoun to refer to the subject of the clause. This confusion occurs 1) as an attempt to use gender-neutral language and 2) confusion about the plurality or singularity (number) of the subject.

Gender-Neutral Pronoun Errors

Error: Every teacher must remember to bring their laptop computer.

Teach students that anyone, anybody, everyone, everybody, someone, somebody, no one, and nobody are always singular.

Correction: Teachers must remember to bring their laptop computer.

Or

Correction: Teachers must remember to bring a laptop computer.

By the time a child leaves the Primary School, she will have solid academic skills and responsible study habits.

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/595/01/>

Pronoun Case

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/595/02/>

Agreement in Number

<http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/GRAMMAR/pronouns.htm>