

Pronouns

To use this handout, you must first understand a pronoun is a word that is used as a substitute for a noun. Using pronouns in place of nouns relieves the monotony of repeating the same noun over and over. When you use pronouns, you must be consistent in using singular nouns with singular pronouns and plural nouns with plural pronouns.

Singular Pronouns

- Use a singular pronoun when the noun it replaces is singular.

Example: Everyone (singular) must prove that he or she (singular pronouns) knows the material.

Example: Hannah (singular) lost her notebook the day before her (singular) final exam.

Plural Pronouns

- Use a plural pronoun when the noun it replaces is plural.

Example: Mathematicians (plural) must understand all elements of set theory if they (plural) are to be considered credible.

Here's a tip:

- When it doesn't matter if the noun is singular or plural, use the plural form and then use "they" instead of "he or she."

Example: All engineers (plural) must understand that they (plural) should learn to write better.