

21. PRONOUN AGREEMENT

Pronouns (e.g., *he, she, their, theirs*) have to match (or agree) with the nouns that they replace or refer to.

There are two common errors in matching (or agreement):

- the noun and the pronoun are not both plural or both singular
- the pronoun *you* is used to replace a noun

ERROR	INCORRECT	CORRECT	REMEMBER
<p>The noun and the pronoun that replaces the noun do not match.</p> <p>The noun and the pronoun are not both plural or both singular.</p>	<p><i>By Friday, each <u>student</u> must register for <u>their</u> classes.</i></p> <p>(The noun <i>student</i> is singular, but the pronoun <i>their</i> is plural.)</p>	<p><i>By Friday, all <u>students</u> must register for <u>their</u> classes.</i></p> <p>(The noun <i>students</i> and the pronoun <i>their</i> are both plural.)</p>	<p>A noun and the pronoun that replaces the noun must both be singular or both plural.</p>
<p>The pronoun <i>you</i> is used to replace a noun.</p>	<p><i>Most <u>students</u> find college challenging because <u>you</u> have to work hard.</i></p> <p>(<i>Students</i> is a noun; the pronoun <i>you</i> should not be used to replace a noun.)</p>	<p><i>Most <u>students</u> find college challenging because <u>they</u> have to work hard.</i></p> <p>(The pronoun <i>they</i> is the correct pronoun to replace the noun <i>students</i>.)</p>	<p>Do not use the pronoun <i>you</i> to replace a noun.</p> <p>In general, avoid using the informal pronoun <i>you</i> in college papers.</p>