

Advanced 2
Unit 1 Language Focus 3
Presented by Mohammad Rajabpur

Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement

Antecedent = the word to which a pronoun or a possessive adjective refers.

Robert lives in a big palace. **He** is very satisfied with **his** life.

Subject Pronoun ⇒ He

Possessive Adjective ⇒ His

Antecedent for the Subject Pronoun & Possessive Adjective ⇒ Robert

Point:

A pronoun or a possessive adjective should agree with its antecedent in gender (being male or female) and number (being singular or plural).

Point:

When two parts of a subject are joined by "and", the subject is considered as plural and the verb, the pronouns and the possessive adjectives which refer to it have to be plural:

Plural Verb

Example:

The cat and the dog are playing in the yard. They are making a lot of noise.

However, if the two parts form a single unit, idea, or are commonly thought of together, you might use a singular verb:

Singular Verb

Examples:

Macaroni and cheese is my favorite dish. It is very delicious.

My friend and colleague is going to sell his car. (referring to the same person)

My friend and my colleague are going to sell their cars. (referring to two people)

Health and medicine is an important part of our education. (referring to a single field or domain)

The trick is to determine if the parts are distinct entities (plural verb) or a single entity (singular verb).

Point:

When we use “both ... and ...” in the subject of the sentence, the subject is considered as plural. But this is not always the case with “either... or...” / “neither... nor...”.

Examples:

Both Jack **and** David will bring **their** cameras.

Either Jack **or** David will bring **his** camera.

Point:

When the word “every” is used in a noun phrase, it is considered as singular. But when the word “all” is used in a noun phrase, it is considered as plural.

Examples:

Everyone will bring **his or her** food to the party.

All the guests will bring **their** food to the party.

Source:

[Advanced 2 \(anglophone.ir\)](http://anglophone.ir)