

1 Here's the Idea

▶ **An indefinite pronoun may be the antecedent of a personal pronoun.**

The number of an indefinite pronoun is not always clear. The following chart shows the number of some common indefinite pronouns.

Indefinite Pronouns				
Always singular	another anybody anyone anything	each either everybody everyone	everything neither nobody no one	one somebody someone
Always plural	both	few	many	several
Singular or plural	all any	most	none	some

Singular Indefinite Pronouns

Use a singular personal pronoun to refer to a singular indefinite pronoun.

 **Each of the discoveries has its own special value.**
SINGULAR INDEFINITE PRONOUN SINGULAR PERSONAL PRONOUN

The phrase “his or her” is considered a singular personal pronoun.

No one wants his or her discoveries discounted.

When one or more nouns come between a personal pronoun and its indefinite-pronoun antecedent, make sure that the personal pronoun agrees with the indefinite pronoun and not with a noun.

INCORRECT: One of the explorers broke their leg.

(The personal pronoun should agree with the indefinite pronoun, not the noun.)

CORRECT: One of the explorers broke his leg.

(The personal pronoun agrees with the indefinite pronoun.)

You may have trouble remembering that *everyone* and *everybody* are singular, because they seem to be plural in meaning. To help you recall that the pronouns are singular, remember that the endings *body* and *one* are always singular.

Plural Indefinite Pronouns

Use a plural personal pronoun to refer to a plural indefinite pronoun.



Singular or Plural Indefinite Pronouns

Some indefinite pronouns can be singular or plural. Use the meaning of the sentence to determine whether a personal pronoun that refers to such an indefinite pronoun should be singular or plural.

If the indefinite pronoun refers to a part of a whole, use a singular personal pronoun.

None of the gold found on the ship has lost **its** glitter.

If the indefinite pronoun refers to the members of a group, use a plural personal pronoun.

None of the guests left **their** seats during the lecture.