

# 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				
<b>Always singular</b>	another anybody anyone anything	each either everybody everyone	everything neither nobody no one	one somebody someone
<b>Always plural</b>	both	few	many	several
<b>Singular or plural</b>	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.)

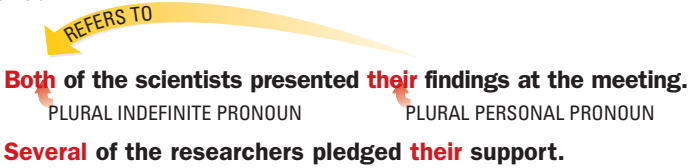
**CORRECT: One of the explorers broke his leg.**

(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.