

The image shows the cover of a spiral-bound notebook. The cover is a light tan or beige color with a subtle, repeating pattern of the words 'The Book of Grammar' in a small, light brown font. The spiral binding is on the left side, with the metal wire visible. The text is centered on the cover.

The Book of Grammar  
Lesson Four

AP Language and Composition  
Mr. McBride

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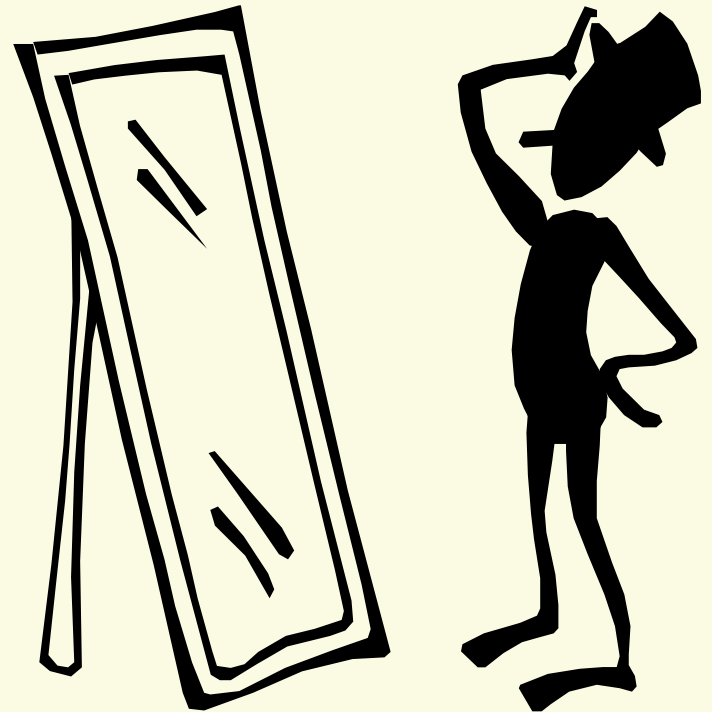
- Lesson One: Prepositions and Prepositional Phrases
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But, after lesson three, don't I now know everything about pronouns?

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- Did each of the planes keep *its* place in the formation or did each of the planes *their* place in the formation?



But, after lesson three, don't I now know everything about pronouns?

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- Did each of the planes keep *its* place in the formation or did each of the planes *their* place in the formation?



# What you should know by the end of Lesson Four:

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- When to use the *plural* and when to use the *singular* case of a pronoun

## Note

Remember that the “antecedent” of a pronoun is the word that the pronoun is replacing or referring back to.



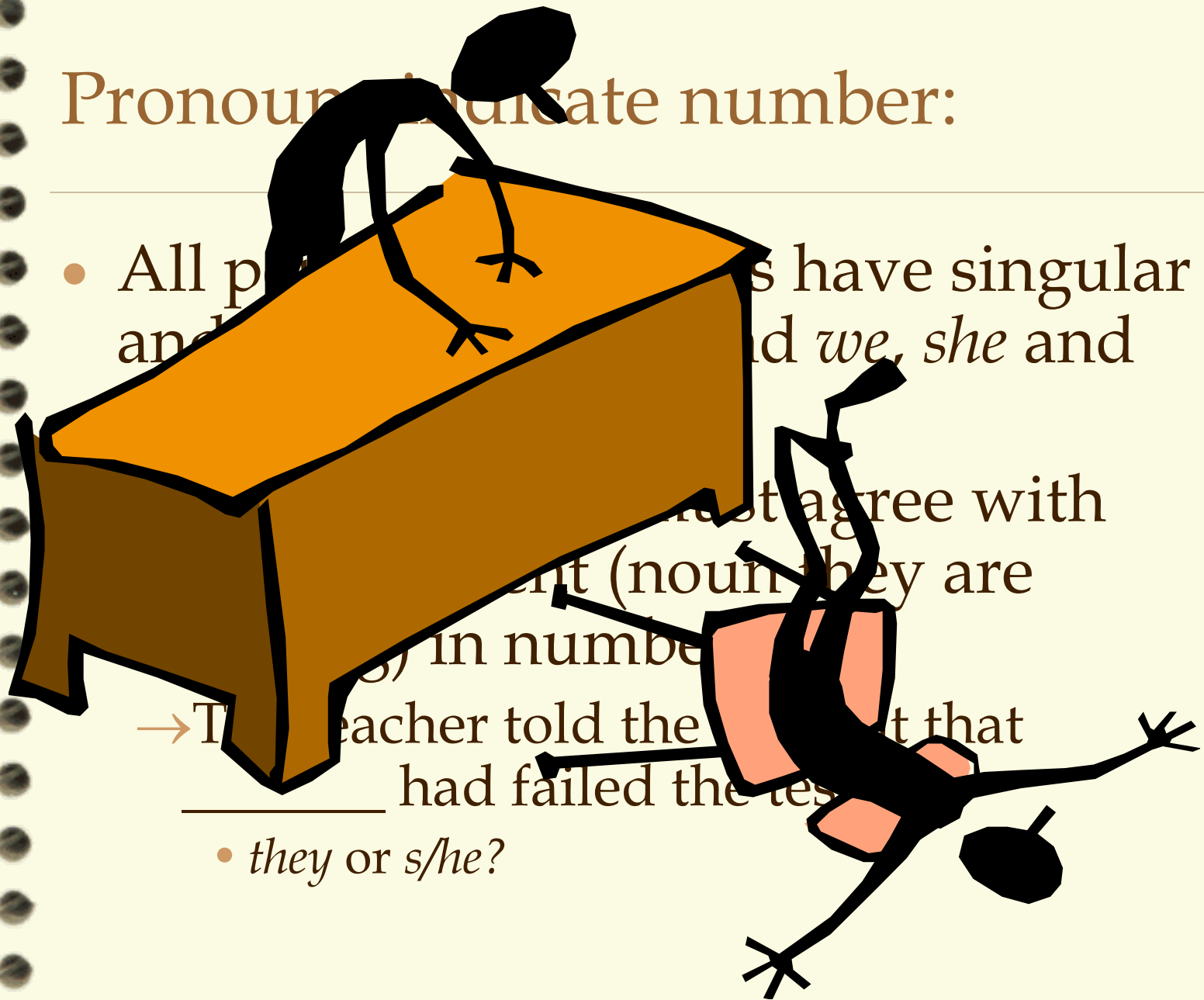
# Pronoun indicate number:

- All pronouns have singular and plural forms. *we, she* and

They must agree with the subject (noun they are referring to) in number.

→ The teacher told the student that \_\_\_\_\_ had failed the test.

- *they* or *s/he*?



# Gender Ambiguity

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- English lacks a singular personal pronoun that is not gender-specific. In speech, people often make up for this by using “their” when the gender is not clear – “Who left *their* backpack?”
- You must be careful not to do this in formal writing – “Who left *his or her* backpack?”

## Examples of personal pronoun problems: Agreement in Number

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- Does *their* or *her* go in the following blanks?
- The student forgot \_\_\_\_\_ homework.
  - Student, the antecedent, is a singular noun, and must be referred to with a singular possessive pronoun: *her*.
- Who left \_\_\_\_\_ backpack?
  - Only one student could have left her backpack.





# Examples of pronoun problems:

## Agreement in Number

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- “Everybody in the class forgot \_\_\_\_\_ homework.”
  - *their* or *his* or *her*?
  - *Everybody* is singular, and must be referred to with a singular possessive pronoun.



# Singular and Plural Antecedents


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- Singular: the following words are singular
  - another, anybody, anyone, anything, each, either, everybody, everyone, everything, little, much, neither, nobody, no one, nothing, one, other, somebody, someone, something
  - “*Little* was known about the affair, but it was enough to ruin his reputation.”
- Plural: the following words are plural
  - both, few, many, others, several
  - “*Few* of the students were ready to take their test.”

# Ambiguously Numbered Antecedents

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- The following words can be either singular or plural:
  - all, any, more, most, none, some
- For words that can be singular or plural, look at what they refer to:
  - Some of the cows escaped, and they crossed the road.
    - *Some* refers to cows, which is plural.
  - Some of the wine spilled, and it stained the couch.
    - *Some* refers to wine, which is singular.



What you should know by the end of this lesson:

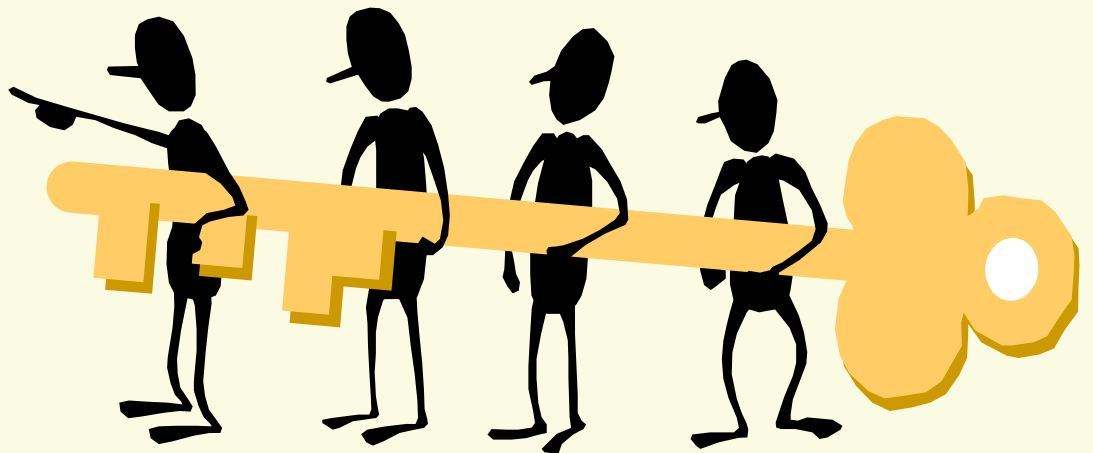
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- When to use the *plural* and when to use the *singular* case of a pronoun

So do you know the answer to these questions now?

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- Did everyone do *his* homework or did everyone do *their* homework?



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# The end of Lesson Four

Quiz on Monday, December 3