



Palm Beach Atlantic University  
Center for Writing Excellence

## PRONOUN AND NOUN AGREEMENT

Pronoun *defined*: A pronoun is a word that can be used to replace a noun for stylistic reasons, making a sentence less repetitive.

Frequently used pronouns: *it, I, you, he, they, we, she, who, them, me, him, one, her, us, something, nothing, anything, himself, everything, someone, themselves, everyone, itself, anyone, myself...*

### **Usage Rules:**

- 1) *Number Agreement*. The pronoun used must agree in number with the noun.
  - a) If the noun is singular (student, girl, dog), the pronoun replacing the noun must be singular (he, she, it).
  - b) When the noun is plural, the pronoun must be plural (*professors* = they/their/them). The pronoun “their” is *plural*, and it is not a replacement for a singular neutral noun.
- 2) *Gender Agreement*. The pronoun used must agree in gender with the noun.
  - a) If “aunt” is the noun, then “she/her” is the pronoun.
  - b) In the case of plural nouns, the proper pronoun is *they/them*, which is gender-neutral.