

Aggie Grammar Guide: Pronouns

Answer Key

Intermediate Practice

- 1) As **human beings, we** all tend to trust reliable sources for our big decisions such as buying a house, going to college, or choosing a job.
- 2) Raquel Cepeda writes about how when **someone identifies** as a Latino or Hispanic person, many people automatically assume that that person is Mexican.
- 3) There are few dashes in the feature articles, but the feature articles like to use appositives and relative clauses. Appositives and relative clauses are very common when **they reference** one person's story or personal experience.
- 4) Because there are always text and a few pictures in an article, dividing the context into small subsets **makes it easy for the reader to read**, and it does not seem too dense for readers. (This option adds a pronoun. Other similar options would be "helps the reader read easier" or "makes the text easy/easier to read." You may also prefer a more elaborate revision that subsequently makes the sentence more parallel: "Because there are always text and a few pictures in the article, **it is easier to read** when the context is divided into small subsets and does not seem too dense for readers.")
- 5) No matter how small a decision may seem, **it** will have a great impact on the path you're taking to achieve success.
- 6) It made me think of how great of an impact a simple essay written by a college student admitting **a** fear of belonging would have on incoming freshmen **who** may be going through the same thing upperclassmen went through in the past.
- 7) The University of Texas at Austin should be able to communicate honestly and effectively towards its students and say how it's going to impact them and ways **it** can help. (A university is treated as a collective noun so it has a singular pronoun.)
- 8) When **you** are told beforehand that **students** in the past have felt the same way as you and that they were able to get over it, it gives **you** confidence that if they did it, so can you, making you more likely to succeed in college and high school and making the dropout rate lower. (To be consistent, "students," "the reader," and "I" were all changed to "you." Then the phrase "people in the past" was changed to "students in the past" to put back the original context of the sentence. Other options also exist; here's one alternative that removes all **yous** and cuts out unnecessary pronouns: "When students are told beforehand that people in the past have felt the same way and were able to get over it, it gives **them** confidence that "if they did it, so can I," making **them** more likely to succeed in college and high school and making the dropout rate lower.")

Advanced Practice

- 1) The more **students feel** like they belong, the more motivated they will be to work hard and achieve their goals.
- 2) With the structure of beginning in ISS, meeting his crewmates, and seeing the ship, it is very easy to know exactly **what his time in space is like**.
- 3) I plan to make sure my professors recognize my face and see in me someone who is dedicated to **her** education.
(Other options are “his”, “his/her”, “their” [if your personal pronoun is “they”], or just remove the pronoun altogether.)
- 4) (No revision needed.)
- 5) Not only did I like his style of writing, but throughout this chapter I felt like Mr. Zinn and **I** had similar perspectives.
- 6) (No revision needed.)
- 7) There is no need to investigate **whom** Fortunato’s murderer is due to the fact that Montresor directly confesses his crime to the audience.
- 8) **Students shouldn’t have to struggle** with these negative effects when they only get limited improvement to their physical health.
(“No revision needed” is a possible answer, but academic English prefers concision and the expression “it’s not worth it” can be cut out.)