

## Does the Pronoun Agree with its Antecedent?

In order to be used correctly, pronouns must agree with the nouns they replace in person, number and gender. In this passage from Mark Twain's novel *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, the bolded pronouns do not agree with their antecedents. Correct them so that the passage makes sense.

"But Tom's energy did not last. **She (1)** began to think of the fun **you (2)** had planned for this day, and **their (3)** sorrows multiplied. Soon the free boys would come tripping along on all sorts of delicious expeditions, and they would make a world of fun of **her (4)** for having to work—the very thought of it burnt **them (5)** like fire. **They (6)** got out his worldly wealth and examined it—bits of toys, marbles, and trash; enough to buy an exchange of WORK, maybe, but not half enough to buy so much as half an hour of pure freedom. So **they (7)** returned his straitened means to **their (8)** pocket, and gave up the idea of trying to buy the boys. At this dark and hopeless moment an inspiration burst upon **her (9)**! Nothing less than a great, magnificent inspiration.

He took up his brush and went tranquilly to work. Ben Rogers hove in sight presently—the very boy, of all boys, whose ridicule **they (10)** had been dreading. Ben's gait was the hop-skip-and-jump—proof enough that **its (11)** heart was light and his anticipations high. He was eating an apple, and giving a long, melodious whoop, at intervals, followed by a deep-toned ding-dong-dong, ding-dong-dong, for **it (12)** was personating a steamboat. As he drew near, he slackened speed, took the middle of the street, leaned far over to starboard and rounded to ponderously and with laborious pomp and circumstance—for **they (13)** was personating the Big Missouri, and considered himself to be drawing nine feet of water. He was boat and captain and engine-bells combined, so **she (14)** had to imagine himself standing on his own hurricane-deck giving the orders and executing **it (15)**."

### Corrected Passage:

"But Tom's energy did not last. \_\_\_\_\_ (1) began to think of the fun \_\_\_\_\_ (2) had planned for this day, and \_\_\_\_\_ (3) sorrows multiplied. Soon the free boys would come tripping along on all sorts of delicious expeditions, and they would make a world of fun of \_\_\_\_\_ (4) for having to work—the very thought of it burnt \_\_\_\_\_ (5) like fire. \_\_\_\_\_ (6) got out his worldly wealth and examined it—bits of toys, marbles, and trash; enough to buy an exchange of WORK, maybe, but not half enough to buy so much as half an hour of pure freedom. So \_\_\_\_\_ (7) returned his straitened means to \_\_\_\_\_ (8) pocket, and gave up the idea of trying to buy the boys. At this dark and hopeless moment an inspiration burst upon \_\_\_\_\_ (9)! Nothing less than a great, magnificent inspiration.

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