



**In Class Exercises Set A**

**Answers and Explanations: WR Pronouns**

**PART I**

- 1) The answers are **D)** and **A)**. 'His' is a possessive pronoun, 'he' is used as a subject pronoun in this sentence and 'their' is another possessive pronoun.
- 2) The answers are **D)**, **A)** and **B)**. 'His' is a possessive pronoun, 'she' is a subject pronoun, 'him' is an (indirect) object pronoun, and 'he' us a subject pronoun.
- 3) The answers are **A)**, **E)** and **G)**. 'He' is a subject pronoun, 'himself,' as used in the sentence, is a reflexive pronoun, while 'that' is demonstrative.
- 4) The answers are **F)**, **C)**, and **B)**. 'Anyone' is an indefinite pronoun, 'who' as used in the sentence is a relative pronoun (leading off a clause describing 'anyone'), and 'it' is used as an object pronoun (object of a preposition).
- 5) The answers are **F)**, **A)**, **C)** and **D)**. 'Whoever' is an indefinite pronoun, 'we' is a subject pronoun, 'this' is a demonstrative pronoun, and 'my' is a possessive pronoun.
- 6) Many vegan recipes substitute almond milk **over for** cow's milk; **therefore**, it is becoming popular in restaurants as well. (Idiomatically, we substitute *for*. Additionally, therefore is a subordinate adverb before an independent clause that requires a semicolon.)
- 7) It may amaze you to learn that everyone has billions of deadly bacteria in **one's your** gut for digestion. (Pronouns must be consistent with their antecedent: you.)
- 8) In **their its** April 18, 1930 **broadcast the broadcast, the** BBC announced that there was no news for the first and only time in the history of the station. (The pronoun "their" does not agree with the singular BBC, and commas are used when starting a sentence with a prepositional phrase.)
- 9) ~~Combining disparate sports are Chess~~ **Boxing Chess Boxing combines disparate sports:** a four-minute round of chess is followed **with by** a round of boxing. (The initial phrase has incorrect subject-verb agreement and

awkward phrasing; "followed by" is the correct idiomatic usage.)

- 10) There was an understanding **between among** the countries sharing a border that diplomacy was more effective **then than** force. ("Among" is idiomatically correct for non-specific objects. Additionally, "then" and "than" are tested homophones: use *then* for chronological time and *than* for comparisons.)

**PART II**

- 1) The answer is **B)**. The antecedent is NASA, which isn't a person, so the correct pronoun is 'it.' 'They' and 'he' both refer to people, while using 'NASA' twice in the sentence is redundant and stylistically poor.
- 2) The answer is **B)**. The relative clause describes objectives, so 'who' is out. The sentence as written uses 'which' without a comma, which doesn't work. 'That' doesn't work with a comma. 'Which' must always be surrounded by commas (or sentence-ending punctuation), so only B works.
- 3) The answer is **C)**. The antecedent is 'a wave,' a singular thing, so its should be the pronoun.
- 4) The answer is **D)**. The antecedent is unclear: the sentence mentions two scientists, Doppler and Fizeau, but the pronoun 'his' could be referring to either of them. For this reason, clarification is necessary, as would be done by saying 'Doppler's.'
- 5) The answer is **D)**. The problem is again an unclear antecedent. Based on the sentence, you have no idea who 'they' are. Presumably, they're the people conducting the experiments mentions, but we haven't yet been told who those people are. Clarification is again needed, so the pronoun should be replaced with 'scientists of the time.'
- 6) The answer is **D)**. Relative clauses that act as adjectives refer to the noun directly before them. For this reason, the relative clause beginning with 'who' is currently describing the presumptions. It is meant to describe the individuals, so the clause should begin after the word 'individuals.'



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- 7) The answer is **A**). AAA checks out. There is an antecedent (universe), 'its' agrees with universe, and the pronoun unambiguously refers to the antecedent.
- 8) The answer is **C**). The paragraph is about thermodynamic theories and how the Hubble telescope and the Doppler effect disproved them. There is no need for data about graduates in the thermodynamic field, and as C points out, it blurs the main idea of the paragraph as explained above.
- 9) The answer is **C**). Connecting two independent clauses with a comma and logical coordinating conjunction (like 'but' to contrast) is always correct. The sentence currently is just a comma splice, and using a coordinating conjunction with a semicolon, as in D is incorrect. It is possible to connect two independent clauses with a colon, but only if the second exemplifies the first. This sentence does quite the opposite by contrasting, so a colon is inappropriate.
- 10) The answer is **B**). Whether already implies an alternate possibility, therefore "or not" is not necessary.