

Antecedent Allies Answer Key

1. **his/her** (antecedent "Every student" is singular; use singular pronoun).
2. **they** (antecedent "dogs" is plural).
3. **his** (antecedent "Neither" is singular, even though "brothers" is plural in form).
4. **they** (antecedent "Maria and Lila" is plural).
5. **his or her** (antecedent "Someone" is singular and indefinite).
6. **its** (antecedent "committee" is a collective noun used as a singular group).
7. **his/her** (antecedent "Anyone" is singular and indefinite).
8. **their** (antecedent "players" is plural).
9. **its** (antecedent "Each" is singular, even though it refers to many paintings).
10. **his** (antecedent "Jack or the twins" → when subjects are joined by *or*, the pronoun agrees with the nearer antecedent → "Jack" is singular).
11. **their** (antecedent "Everybody" is treated as singular, but traditionally paired with "his or her"; modern usage often accepts plural "their").
12. **their** (antecedent "Neither the teacher nor the students" → pronoun agrees with the nearer antecedent → "students" is plural).
13. **it** (antecedent "company" is a collective noun, treated as singular).
14. **their** (antecedent "Few" is plural; use a plural pronoun).
15. **their** (antecedent "Both Liam and Ava" is plural).

Teacher Notes:

- Stress that **indefinite pronouns** (each, everyone, someone, anyone, neither, etc.) are almost always singular, even if they sound plural.
- Collective nouns (committee, team, family) are usually treated as singular unless the context emphasizes individual members.
- Compound antecedents joined by *and* are plural; those joined by *or/nor* take the pronoun that agrees with the closest antecedent.
- Encourage students to "match in number" (singular → singular, plural → plural) and check for tricky cases like *Neither...* or *Each of....*