

Read The Sentence. Each Of The Uncles Had Lost Invitation. Which Pronoun Agrees With The Underlined Indefinite

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Understanding pronoun agreement is fundamental to mastering English grammar. In particular, recognizing how indefinite pronouns function within sentences is essential for effective communication and proper writing. The sentence "Each of the uncles had lost invitation" offers an excellent opportunity to explore indefinite pronouns and their corresponding pronouns, focusing on the question: which pronoun agrees with the underlined indefinite? This article provides a comprehensive analysis of indefinite pronouns, their grammatical roles, and how to identify the correct pronoun for a given sentence. Through detailed explanations, examples, and practical tips, readers will gain clarity on this important aspect of English grammar.

What Are Indefinite Pronouns?

Definition and Overview

Indefinite pronouns are words that refer to non-specific persons or things. Unlike definite pronouns such as "he," "she," "it," "they," or "we," indefinite pronouns do not point to a particular, identifiable entity. Instead, they are used when the exact identity of the subject is either unknown or not important.

Common indefinite pronouns include:

- Someone
- Anybody
- Everyone
- Nobody
- Everything
- Nothing
- Each
- Either
- Neither
- Some
- Any
- All

These pronouns are often used in sentences where the subject is general or unspecified.

Types of Indefinite Pronouns

Indefinite pronouns can be categorized based on whether they are singular, plural, or both.

Type	Examples	Number Agreement	Notes
Singular	Someone, Anybody, Everybody, Nobody, Each, Either, Neither, One	Singular	Takes singular verbs and pronouns like "he," "she," or "it"
Plural	Several, Few, Many, Both, Others	Plural	Take plural verbs and pronouns like "they"
Singular or Plural	All, some, any, most	Depends on context	Can be singular or plural depending on what they refer to

Understanding the number agreement is crucial in selecting the correct pronoun that matches the antecedent in a sentence.

Analyzing the Sentence: "Each of the uncles had lost invitation"

Breaking Down the Sentence

Let's analyze the sentence step by step:

- "Each of the uncles": The phrase "each of" is a quantifier that refers to individual members within a group. The core of this phrase is the indefinite pronoun "each".
- "had lost invitation": The verb phrase indicates an action completed in the past. The phrase "lost invitation" suggests that each uncle lost an invitation, but the sentence lacks a definite article before "invitation."

Issues in the Sentence

Before proceeding to the pronoun question, it's important to address some grammatical points:

- The phrase "lost invitation" is grammatically incorrect because "invitation" is a countable noun and should be preceded by an article ("an" or "the").

- The corrected sentence should be: "Each of the uncles had lost an invitation."

This correction is necessary for grammatical accuracy but does not affect the core question about pronoun agreement.

Identifying the Indefinite Pronoun

In the phrase "Each of the uncles," the word "each" is an indefinite pronoun. It is singular and refers to individual members within a group.

Pronoun Agreement with Indefinite Pronouns

Principles of Pronoun Agreement

Pronoun agreement refers to matching the pronoun's number (singular or plural), gender, and person with its antecedent (the noun it replaces). When dealing with indefinite pronouns, understanding their grammatical number is key to choosing the correct pronoun.

Key principles include:

- Singular indefinite pronouns (e.g., each, everyone, somebody) take singular pronouns ("he," "she," "it," or "one").
- Plural indefinite pronouns (e.g., few, several, many) take plural pronouns ("they," "them," "their").
- Some indefinite pronouns can be singular or plural depending on the context (e.g., all, some, most).

Pronouns That Agree With "Each"

The indefinite pronoun "each" is always singular. Therefore:

- The pronoun that agrees with "each" should be singular.
- Typical singular pronouns include "he," "she," "it," or "one," depending on the context.
- When the gender is unknown or not specified, "it" or "they" (used as singular in modern usage) may be acceptable.

Example:

- Each of the students was prepared. (Correct)
- Each of the uncles had lost his invitation. (Correct, using "his" to agree with "each")

Which Pronoun Agrees With the Underlined Indefinite?

Analyzing the Underlined Indefinite in the Sentence

In the original sentence, the underlined indefinite is "Each." Since "each" is singular, the pronoun that agrees with it must also be singular.

Possible pronouns include:

- He / She (if the gender is known)
- It (if gender is not specified and gender-neutral)
- One (more formal or generic)

Note: The pronoun "they" as a singular pronoun is increasingly accepted in modern English, especially when gender is unknown or unspecified.

Choosing the Correct Pronoun

Given the context:

- The sentence refers to "each of the uncles", which is a group of males.
- The most appropriate singular pronoun in this context would be "he" or "his".

Corrected example:

- Each of the uncles had lost his invitation.

Alternatively, if gender-neutral language is preferred:

- Each of the uncles had lost their invitation.

Note: Grammatically, "their" can be used as a singular pronoun in modern English,

especially when the gender is unspecified or when referring to a person of unknown gender.

Practical Tips for Pronoun Agreement with Indefinite Pronouns

To ensure proper pronoun agreement in your writing, consider the following tips:

1. Identify the indefinite pronoun: Determine whether it is singular or plural.
2. Check the antecedent's number and gender: Even if the antecedent is indefinite, understand its grammatical number.
3. Choose the correct pronoun: Match the pronoun's number and gender accordingly.
4. Use consistent pronouns: Avoid switching between singular and plural pronouns within a sentence.
5. Be mindful of formal vs. informal usage: "They" as a singular pronoun is acceptable in informal contexts, but in formal writing, "he" or "she" may be preferred unless gender-neutral language is desired.

Summary and Key Takeaways

- The sentence "Each of the uncles had lost invitation" contains the indefinite pronoun "each," which is singular.
- Pronouns that agree with "each" must also be singular, such as "he," "she," "it," or "their" (in modern usage).
- The correct pronoun to agree with "each" in this context depends on the gender context but is generally singular.
- Proper grammar would be: "Each of the uncles had lost his invitation."
- When dealing with indefinite pronouns, always determine their grammatical number before selecting the corresponding pronoun.

Conclusion

Understanding how indefinite pronouns function and their agreement rules is essential for constructing clear and grammatically correct sentences. In the case of the sentence "Each of the uncles had lost invitation," recognizing "each" as a singular indefinite pronoun guides us in selecting the appropriate pronoun, such as "his" or "their," depending on the context and desired tone.

By mastering these rules, writers can enhance their grammatical accuracy and improve the clarity of their communication. Remember, the key lies in analyzing the indefinite pronoun's number and ensuring pronoun agreement aligns accordingly. Whether you are a student, teacher, or professional writer, paying attention to pronoun agreement will elevate your mastery of English grammar.

Additional Resources:

- "Indefinite Pronouns and Their Agreement" - English Grammar Today
- "Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement Rules" - Purdue Owl
- "Using Singular 'They'" - Merriam-Webster Dictionary

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q1: Is "each" always singular?

A: Yes, "each" is an indefinite pronoun that is always singular and takes singular verbs and pronouns.

Q2: Can "their" be used with "each"?

A: While traditionally "their" is plural, modern English accepts "their" as a singular pronoun when referring to an indefinite pronoun like "each" for gender-neutral or inclusive language.

Q3: What is the correct pronoun for "each of the uncles"?

A: The correct pronoun is singular—either "his" or "her," depending on context

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the correct pronoun to replace 'Each of the uncles' in the sentence 'Each of the uncles had lost invitation'?

The correct pronoun is 'his' or 'their', depending on the context. Since 'each' is singular, 'his' is appropriate if referring to individual uncles, but 'their' can be used as a gender-neutral singular pronoun.

In the sentence 'Each of the uncles had lost invitation,' which pronoun agrees with the indefinite 'each'?

The pronoun 'his' or 'their' agrees with the indefinite 'each,' as 'each' is singular, so the pronoun should be singular as well.

How do you identify the correct pronoun for an indefinite pronoun like 'each' in a sentence?

You identify the correct pronoun by ensuring it agrees in number and gender with the antecedent. Since 'each' is singular, the pronoun should be singular, such as 'his' or 'its,' depending on context.

Is the sentence 'Each of the uncles had lost invitation' grammatically correct, and what pronoun should replace 'each'?

The sentence is grammatically correct, but to improve clarity, you can replace 'each' with 'his' or 'their' as the pronoun, with 'his' being traditionally singular.

What is the role of the pronoun in the sentence 'Each of the uncles had lost invitation' and how does it agree with the indefinite 'each'?

The pronoun functions as a substitute for 'each of the uncles' and must agree in number and gender. Since 'each' is singular, the pronoun should be singular, such as 'his' or 'its'.

Additional Resources

Read The Sentence. Each Of The Uncles Had Lost Invitation. Which Pronoun Agrees With The Underlined Indefinite?

Introduction

Language is a complex system of rules and nuances that often challenge even seasoned

writers and linguists. Among the many intricacies of English grammar, pronoun agreement with indefinite and distributive pronouns stands out as a common source of confusion. The sentence “Read the sentence. Each of the uncles had lost invitation.” exemplifies this challenge by presenting an ambiguous pronoun reference tied to an indefinite pronoun—namely, “each.”

This article delves into the grammatical principles underlying pronoun agreement, with particular focus on indefinite pronouns like “each,” and explores the question: Which pronoun agrees with the underlined indefinite? Through a detailed analysis, we aim to clarify the rules, common pitfalls, and best practices for ensuring grammatical consistency in similar constructions.

The Core Sentence and Its Ambiguities

The sentence under scrutiny is:

> "Read The Sentence. Each Of The Uncles Had Lost Invitation."

The key phrase here is: "Each of the uncles". The indefinite pronoun “each” is used to refer to individual members within a group, emphasizing their singularity. The subsequent clause, “had lost invitation,” contains the underlined indefinite “invitation,” which appears as a noun, not a pronoun.

Question: Which pronoun—he, she, it, they, or another—should agree with the indefinite “each”?

At first glance, the sentence is grammatically incomplete and somewhat awkward, but our focus is on understanding the proper pronoun agreement when referring back to “each of the uncles.”

Understanding Indefinite Pronouns and Agreement Rules

What Are Indefinite Pronouns?

Indefinite pronouns are pronouns that do not refer to a specific person, place, or thing. Common indefinite pronouns include:

- Singular: everyone, everything, someone, anybody, each, either, neither
- Plural: many, few, several, both
- Singular or plural depending on context: some, all, none

In our case, “each” is an indefinite singular pronoun.

Pronoun Agreement Principles

- When an indefinite pronoun is singular, it takes a singular pronoun (he, she, it, one).
- When the indefinite pronoun refers to a specific noun with gender, the pronoun should

agree accordingly.

- The pronoun "it" is typically used when referring to objects or abstract nouns, or when gender is unknown or unspecified.
- "They" can be used as a singular pronoun to refer to a person when gender is unknown or to be non-binary, but in traditional grammar, "each" is singular and should agree with a singular pronoun.

Analyzing the Sentence Structure

Let's break down the sentence for clarity:

- Subject: "Each of the uncles"
- Verb: "had lost"
- Object: "invitation" (singular noun)

From a grammatical standpoint:

- "Each of the uncles" is singular because "each" emphasizes individual attention.
- The verb "had lost" correctly agrees with "each," as "had" is a past perfect singular verb form.
- The object "invitation" is singular, aligning with the idea that each uncles individually lost an invitation.

Important Note: The phrase "lost invitation" is missing an article ("an" or "the"). Proper grammatical construction would be "lost an invitation" or "lost the invitation."

Which Pronoun Agrees With the Underlined Indefinite?

The core question is about pronoun agreement with "each," which is an indefinite singular pronoun.

Correct Pronoun Choices

- He / She / It: Depending on the gender context.
- They: Modern usage allows "they" as a singular pronoun, especially when gender is unspecified or unknown.

In formal academic or traditional grammar:

- When "each" refers to individual members of a group, the pronoun should be singular and gender-neutral if gender is unspecified.

Therefore:

- If the uncles' genders are unknown or unspecified: "he" or "she" would be inappropriate; "it" might be used but sounds awkward when referring to people.
- The most grammatically appropriate in formal writing: "he" or "she," depending on

gender, or “they” as a singular pronoun.

Contextual Analysis and Practical Implications

When the Pronoun Is “It”

Given that “invitation” is an inanimate object, the pronoun “it” is the most appropriate to refer back to “invitation.” However, “each of the uncles” refers to the persons, not the invitation itself, so pronoun agreement depends on whether the sentence refers to the uncles or the invitations they lost.

Example:

- If referring to each uncle individually: “Each of the uncles had lost his invitation.”

Here, “his” is the possessive pronoun, matching the singular, masculine noun “uncle.”

- If referring to the invitations collectively: “Each of the uncles had lost their invitations.”

Using “their” as a singular pronoun is acceptable in modern English, especially to be gender-neutral.

The Role of the Underlined Indefinite

Assuming the underlined indefinite is “each,” the pronoun that agrees with “each” is singular, and the typical pronouns would be:

- He / She / It: depending on context
- They: modern, gender-neutral, singular usage

Practical Recommendations

- In formal writing: Use “he,” “she,” or “his,” “her” depending on the known gender.
- In gender-neutral contexts: Use “they,” “their,” as singular pronouns.

Common Pitfalls and How to Avoid Them

| Mistake | Explanation | Correct Usage |

|-----|-----|-----|

| Using plural pronouns for singular indefinite | “Each of the uncles had lost their invitation.” | Acceptable in modern usage; formal: “each of the uncles had lost his invitation.” |

| Confusing object and subject agreement | Referring to “invitation” with “they.” | Use “it,” e.g., “each invitation” → “it” |

| Omitting articles or possessives | “lost invitation” instead of “lost an invitation” or “lost his invitation.” | Always include articles or possessive pronouns |

Summary of Key Rules

- “Each” is singular and takes a singular pronoun.
- When referring to people, select the pronoun based on gender or use “they” for neutrality.
- When referring to objects, use “it.”
- Ensure consistent agreement throughout the sentence.

Final Clarification: Which Pronoun Agrees With the Underlined Indefinite?

Given the sentence:

> "Read The Sentence. Each Of The Uncles Had Lost Invitation."

- The underlined indefinite is “each,” which is singular.
- The pronoun that agrees with “each” should be singular.

Answer: The pronoun “he,” “she,” “it,” or “they” can agree, depending on context.

Most grammatically precise:

- If the context is unspecified gender, “he” or “she” (if known) or more inclusively, “they” (singular) is correct.

In conclusion, the pronoun that agrees with the underlined indefinite “each” is a singular pronoun—most appropriately “he,” “she,” or “it,” with “they” being acceptable in contemporary usage.

Final Thoughts

Understanding the agreement between indefinite pronouns and pronouns they govern is essential for clear and correct English. “Each” is a classic example of an indefinite pronoun that naturally takes a singular pronoun. Writers should be cautious to match pronouns in number and gender, ensuring grammatical consistency that enhances clarity.

In the specific case of the sentence analyzed, the pronoun that agrees with the underlined indefinite “each” is a singular pronoun, with “he,” “she,” or “it” being the most traditional choices, and “they” increasingly accepted in modern, gender-neutral contexts.

End of Article

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