Note: The remainder of concepts covered in this chapter have been tested in previous versions of the SAT, although they may or may not be tested on the digital exam. The following sections are included for the sake of thoroughness.

One, You, We

One	One, One's
We	Us, Our
You	You, Your

While *one*, *you*, and *we* can all be used to talk about people in general, these pronouns must remain consistent throughout; they cannot be mixed and matched with one another (or any other pronoun) within a sentence or paragraph.

Remember that context is important. While all four of the answers to a given question may be grammatically correct and make sense out of context, only one will make the sentence **parallel** to the surrounding sentences or parts of a sentence.

If you have been reading the passage carefully and not just skipping from question to question, you will likely remember which pronoun was used in the previous couple of sentences. If you are unsure, however, you must go back to the passage and read the surrounding sentences to see which pronoun is used.

To consciously hold and manipulate new information mentally, **we** must make a concerted effort. In particular, neurons in the prefrontal cortex must work together in synchrony to focus _____ thoughts.

1 Mark for Review

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

Ⓐ	one's
Ⓑ	our
Ⓒ	your
Ⓓ	their

The previous sentence contains the pronoun *we*, and *our* is the possessive form of *we*, so (B) is correct.

Noun Agreement

When two nouns are linked with a "being" verb such as *be* or *become*, they must agree in number.

Incorrect: Capitalizing on the national cycling craze of the early 1890s, Orville and Wilbur Wright decided to open a shop and become **a bicycle seller**.

Correct: Capitalizing on the national cycling craze of the early 1890s, Orville and Wilbur Wright decided to open a shop and become **bicycle sellers**.

On the other hand, you must watch out for constructions that appear to be plural but are in fact singular.

Incorrect: Orville Wright, along with his brother, are considered **inventors** of the airplane.

Correct: Orville Wright, along with his brother, is considered **an inventor** of the airplane.

Notice that this example contains a non-essential clause after *Orville Wright*. If that clause is removed, the error reveals itself: *Orville Wright...are considered inventors of the airplane.* Clearly that does not make sense. *Orville Wright*, the true subject of the sentence, was one person and therefore *an inventor*, singular.

Relative Pronouns

As is true for other pronouns such as *it* and *he*, some relative pronouns can refer to people only; others can refer to things only; and still others can refer to both people and things.

People	Things	People & Things
Who Whom	Which	Whose That (not tested)

Who(m) vs. Which

Use *who* or *whom*, not *which*, when referring to people. *Which* is reserved for things.

Incorrect: Employees **which** participate in professional development can acquire new skills and associate with other workers in their industries.

Correct: Employees **who** participate in professional development can acquire new skills and associate with other workers in their industries.

Whose

Whose is the possessive of both *who* and *which*. Although it looks like *who*, it can refer to **people or things**.

Correct: People **whose** last names begin with letters that occur late in the alphabet are often susceptible to limited-time offers because they are accustomed to being overlooked and tend to appreciate acknowledgment.

Correct: Mount Hosmer is an "upside-down mountain" **whose** oldest rocks are found near the top of the mountain and **whose** youngest rocks are found near the bottom.

Who vs. Whom

There are two primary things to know about *who* and *whom* for the SAT:

1) Who is used before a verb.

2) Whom is used after a preposition.

A verb should never come right after *whom*. If it does, *who* should be used instead.

Incorrect: One of the first screenwriters to include details such as stage directions in her work was June Mathis, **whom** helped make film into an art form.

Correct: One of the first screenwriters to include details such as stage directions in her work was June Mathis, **who** helped make film into an art form.

Whom should, however, be used after a preposition (e.g., *of, from, for, to, by, with, in, on, about*).

Incorrect: Among Emily Dickinson's favorite writing partners was her sister-in-law, Susan Huntington, <u>with</u> **who** she exchanged hundreds of letters.

Correct: Among Emily Dickinson's favorite writing partners was her sister-in-law, Susan Huntington, <u>with</u> **whom** she exchanged hundreds of letters.

Important: A verb **can** be placed after *pronoun + of whom* (e.g., *some of whom believe, many of whom go*). The use of *whom* is determined by the preposition *of*, not by the verb.

Where, When, and "Preposition + Which"

- *Where* refers to places (physical locations) only, not books, films, or television programs.
- *When* refers to times and events only.

Preposition + which (e.g., *in which, during which, to which*) can be used in place of *where* or *when*.

Incorrect: The Middle Ages was a period **where** farmers were bound to the land.

Correct: The Middle Ages was a period **when/in which** farmers were bound to the land.

Watch out for answers that do not place a preposition before *which*.

Incorrect: New York is a city **which** many people travel by subway rather than by car.

Correct: New York is a city **in which** many people travel by subway rather than by car.

Note that when *preposition + which* is used, it is incorrect to also place a preposition at the end of the clause or sentence.

Incorrect: Performance artist Anna Deveare Smith is known for her one-woman "documentary plays" **in which** she plays a wide array of characters **<u>in</u>**.

Correct: Performance artist Anna Deveare Smith is known for her one-woman "documentary plays" **in which** she plays a wide array of characters.

Exercise: Pronoun Agreement (answers p. 216)

1. In recent years, new forms of digital technology have allowed acoustic engineers to create sophisticated noise-filtering devices. As a result, _____ can now eliminate unwanted noise with a precision never before possible.

- Ⓐ it
- Ⓑ they
- Ⓒ he or she
- Ⓓ this

2. Elizabeth Barrett Browning's "Cry of the Children," published in 1842, denounced the use of child labor. The poem also brought about some of the first labor laws designed to prevent _____

- Ⓐ them.
- Ⓑ those.
- Ⓒ some.
- Ⓓ that practice.

3. When people dream, their eyes move in accordance with the action. If someone is dreaming about watching a game of tennis, for example, _____ eyes will move from left to right with each volley.

- Ⓐ his or her
- Ⓑ one's
- Ⓒ our
- Ⓓ your

4. Jazz musician Miles Dewey Davis III was known for creating a unique sound through the use of non-traditional instruments such as the French horn. He joined Ella Fitzgerald and Duke Ellington as _____ of the most renowned jazz performers in the United States during the mid-twentieth century.

- Ⓐ many
- Ⓑ some
- Ⓒ one
- Ⓓ more

5. Although people who sleep in the middle of the day are often perceived as lazy, they are actually a remarkably accomplished group. Winston Churchill, John F. Kennedy, Napoleon, Albert Einstein, and Thomas Edison were all _____ known for valuing their afternoon rest.

- Ⓐ a famous napper
- Ⓑ a famous, napper
- Ⓒ famous nappers;
- Ⓓ famous nappers,

6. Many runners, even those _____ train regularly, have a tendency to stick to an established distance. As a result, they never develop a clear sense of their athletic potential.

- Ⓐ whom
- Ⓑ who
- Ⓒ which
- Ⓓ they

7. There are around 300 octopus species, all of which are part of an elite group of marine creatures with remarkably large brains. Scientists have found that octopuses can not only navigate their way through mazes, but also solve problems quickly and remember _____

- Ⓐ it.
- Ⓑ this.
- Ⓒ that.
- Ⓓ information.

8. The ENIAC, a precursor to the modern computer developed in the 1940s, was capable of adding more than 5,000 numbers per second. Occupying the space of a room, the machine contained dozens of panels, _____ own unique function.

- Ⓐ each with its
- Ⓑ each with their
- Ⓒ each of them had its
- Ⓓ each of which had their

9. In 1858, Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux won a commission to redesign Manhattan's Central Park, which at that time lacked ways for pedestrians and carriages to navigate the park without disturbing one another. _____ began work later that year.

Ⓐ It

Ⓑ He

Ⓒ They

Ⓓ Some

10. Many of the largest deserts, including the Gobi Desert and the Patagonian Desert, are located in the shadows of immense mountain ranges that block moisture from nearby bodies of water. For example, the Himalayan peaks surrounding _____ are so high that clouds cannot rise high enough to cross them.

Ⓐ it

Ⓑ this

Ⓒ that one

Ⓓ the Gobi