Grammar Worksheets:  Consistent Point of View, Answers and Teaching Tips

1. The author suggests that the truth is sometimes painful, but telling the truth is better than living a life being someone you are not.

Suggested Response: The author suggests that the truth is sometimes painful, but telling the truth is better than living a lie.

Teaching Tip: There are an infinite number of “correct “ or acceptable answers, but the key is not to mix points of view. The most common mistake is for students to use the word “you” to mean someone in general. Try to get students to recast (reword) the sentence to omit the word “you.”

Other Suggestions (poor choice): The author suggests that the truth is sometimes painful, but telling the truth is better than living a life being someone he or she is not.

Teaching Tip: Some students will want to use the expression “living a life being someone they are not.” This construction, however, mixes “someone” (singular) with “they” (plural).

Other Suggestions (better – if the gender is known): The author suggests that the truth is sometimes painful, but telling the truth is better than living a life being someone she (or “he”) is not.

Teaching Tip: This is a tricky sentence. Encourage students to recast the sentence to eliminate the pronoun.

1. When Margo married a widower her life became complicated because you can’t help but feel jealous about a deceased wife.

Suggested Response: When Margo married a widower her life became complicated because she can’t help but feel jealous about his deceased wife.

Teaching Tip: This sentence is fairly straightforward. Margo is clearly female, so the pronoun she is appropriate. Notice the use of the possessive pronoun “his” in “his deceased wife” rather than “a deceased wife.”

Other Suggestion (Good): When Margo married a widower her life became complicated because most women can’t help but feel jealous about a deceased wife.

Teaching Tip: “most women” makes the sentence refer to a general group, so the indefinite pronoun “a” is appropriate.

1. Although it may be painful for a parent not to be your child’s role model, Patrice Grant doesn’t have the right to be angry with her son’s choice.

Suggested Response (Good): Although it may be painful for a parent not to be his or her child’s role model, Patrice Grant doesn’t have the right to be angry with her son’s choice.

Teaching Tip: The “his or her” makes the dependent clause general, and the independent clause is specific to Patrice Grant.

Suggested Response (Better): Although it may be painful for parents not to be their children’s role model, Patrice Grant doesn’t have the right to be angry with her son’s choice.

Teaching Tip: Sometimes it’s best to recast the sentence in the plural. Encourage students to play around with this idea.

1. As the soldiers marched away from the battleground, you felt as if the war may finally be over.

Suggested Response (Good): As the soldiers marched away from the battleground, they felt as if the war may finally be over.

Teaching Tip: The sentence above is acceptable, but I believe the writer means for “those who felt the war may finally to be over” to be more general than “the soldiers, so….

Suggested Response (Better): As the soldiers marched away from the battleground, the nation felt as if the war may finally be over.

1. A softball player who wants to develop her pitching form knows you will develop more skills at a sleep away camp.

Suggested Response (Good): A softball player who wants to develop her pitching form knows she will develop more skills at a sleep away camp.

Teaching Tip: I would encourage students to complete the comparison “more skills at a sleep away camp than [she wil]l at a day camp.”

1. Students underestimate the amount of time required to study nursing because you simply cannot pass your tests without extensive study and practical experience.

Suggested Response (Good): Students underestimate the amount of time required to study nursing because most students simply cannot pass their tests without extensive study and practical experience.

1. Regardless of how much teachers try, you cannot make sure that students attend every class.

Suggested Response (Good): Regardless of how much teachers try, they cannot make sure that students attend every class.

Teaching Tip: Laugh a little with this one. A simple substitution of “they” for “you” is enough. Most students will laugh and agree!

1. When I ran, you would get cramps.

Suggested Response: When I ran, I would get cramps.

Suggested Response: When people run, they sometimes get cramps.

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