

Worksheet 1, 8 Exercises, 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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 will] at a day camp."

6. 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.

7. 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!

8. 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.

Worksheet 2, 14 Exercises, Answers and Teaching Tips

1. When children play violent video games, they start acting like the characters, and you sometimes cross the line and disrespect your parents.

Suggested Response: When children play violent video games, they start acting like the characters, and **they** sometimes cross the line and disrespect **their** parents.

Teaching Tip: There's no mystery here. The word children is 3rd person plural. Given the context of the sentence, the pronouns that refer to "children" should be in the 3rd person plural.

2. As thousands of riotous youth looted stores in London, you sensed that the conservative government would respond vigorously.

Suggested Response: As thousands of riotous youth looted stores in London, **the public** sensed that the conservative government would respond vigorously.

Teaching Tip: The question to ask students is this: "Who sensed that the conservative government would respond vigorously?" Students may answer, "well, we did – the people watching the events on TV or reading about them." Clearly, the "riotous youth" should not be the referent for a "they" pronoun in the main clause. Someone, some people, some group was observing the looting and those people sensed that "the conservative government would respond vigorously."

3. Although I enjoy fishing from a pier, you sometimes wonder what fishing from a boat in the ocean would be like.

Suggested Response: Although I enjoy fishing from a pier, **I** sometimes wonder what fishing from a boat in the ocean would be like.

Teaching Tip: The speaker (the "I") is reflecting on herself. The shift from first person to second person is clearly not warranted.

4. When a customer is treated courteously, they are more likely to return.

Suggested Response: When a customers **are** treated courteously, they are more likely to return.

Teaching Tip: Here we have a shift in number, from singular to plural. Encourage students to keep the same number: "a customer – he or she is more likely" or (better) "customers – they are...."

5. I like competing in triathlons because you have the opportunity to train in three different sports.

Suggested Response 1: I like competing in triathlons because **I** have the opportunity to train in three different sports.

Suggested Response 2: **Some athletes** like competing in triathlons because **they** have the opportunity to train in three different sports.

6. As more and more employees were rehired, you felt that management had really tried to address the company's problems.

Suggested Response 1: As more and more employees were rehired, **many employees** felt that management had really tried to address the company's problems.

Suggested Response 2: As more and more employees were rehired, **they** felt that management had really tried to address the company's problems.

7. Marginalized groups often form close-knit communities, so you tend to socialize and shop among members of your group.

Suggested Response 1: Marginalized groups often form close-knit communities, so **members of those communities** tend to socialize and shop among members of **their** group.

Suggested Response 2: Marginalized groups often form close-knit communities, so **they** tend to socialize and shop among members of **their** group.

8. Registered users must log in using their password, and you will be charged on a per-use basis.

Suggested Response: Registered users must log in using their password, and **they** will be charged on a per-use basis.

9. Henry's group practiced life-saving methods in the open ocean; you were expected to swim one hundred yards and return to the boat.

Suggested Response: Henry's group practiced life-saving methods in the open ocean; **they** were expected to swim one hundred yards and return to the boat.

10. In Cancun, tourists experience sandy beaches and luxurious resorts, but you also see people living in shacks with dirt floors and no running water.

Suggested Response: In Cancun, tourists experience sandy beaches and luxurious resorts, but **they** also see people living in shacks with dirt floors and no running water.

11. Visitors to the Magic Kingdom can arrive by ferry or monorail, and you can see Cinderella's castle in the distance.

Suggested Response: Visitors to the Magic Kingdom can arrive by ferry or monorail, and **they** can see Cinderella's castle in the distance.

12. After the football team completes two-a-day summer practices, school begins, and you will have only one practice session after daily study hall.

Suggested Response: After the football team completes two-a-day summer practices, school begins, and **the players (the team) (they)** will have only one practice session after daily study hall.

13. Myrna remembered that patrons could reenter the museum if you still had the ticket stub.

Suggested Response: Myrna remembered that patrons could reenter the museum if **they** still had the ticket stub.

14. When fans arrive late to a concert, you must wait for a pause in the performance to be seated.

Suggested Response: When fans arrive late to a concert, **they** must wait for a pause in the performance to be seated.