ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Mixed Pronouns Test 1

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1	**D**	2	**C**	3	**E**	4	**D**	5	**C**	6	**E**	7	**D**	8	**B**	9	**B**	10	**B**
11	**E**	12	**E**	13	**A**	14	**C**	15	**A**	16	**C**	17	**A**	18	**D**	19	**D**	20	**D**
21	**B**	22	**E**	23	**C**	24	**A**	25	**C**										

Explanations

1. We have already filled in _____ application forms but Mary is still trying to complete _____.
✓ **D) our / hers**
Before a noun we use a possessive adjective: **our application forms**. With no noun after it we use a possessive pronoun: **hers** = her application form. Not **her**, because no noun follows the second gap.

2. One of _____ has to take the responsibility for setting up the experiment.
✓ **C) us**
After a preposition like **of** we use an object pronoun: **one of us**. Not **their** or **your**, because these need a noun after them.

3. The minister and his advisers have finally approved of my nephew's appointment abroad.

replace: the minister and his advisers / my nephew's
✓ **E) they / his**
The minister and his advisers is the subject and plural, so it becomes **they**. **My nephew's appointment** becomes **his appointment**, because **his** comes before a noun and refers to a man. Not **theirs**, because the subject needs a subject pronoun.

4. Mr Johnson and his wife flew to Paris last week to see their daughter.

replace: Mr Johnson and his wife / their daughter
✓ **D) they / her**
Mr Johnson and his wife is the subject and plural, so it becomes **they**. **Their daughter** is the object of **see**, and a daughter is female, so it becomes **her**. Not **hers**, because **hers** is a possessive pronoun, not an object.

5. She has taken _____ coat instead of _____.
✓ **C) my / hers**
Before the noun **coat** we need a possessive adjective: **my coat**. At the end there is no noun, so we use a possessive pronoun: **hers** = her coat. Not **her** at the end, because **her** would need a noun after it.

6. We received a letter telling _____ that _____ nephew is doing well in the army.
✓ **E) us / our**
The subject is **We**, so the letter told **us** (object pronoun after **telling**). Before the noun **nephew** we need the possessive adjective **our**. Not **theirs**, because a possessive pronoun can't come before a noun.

7. As soon as I finish watering _____ plants, I'll see if _____ need watering too.
✓ **D) my / yours**
My plants uses a possessive adjective before a noun. In the second gap there is no noun, so we use the possessive pronoun **yours** (= your plants). Not **your**, because it must be followed by a noun.

8. It was two weeks before my sister got a message from her son.

replace: my sister / her son
✓ **B) she / him**
My sister is the subject, so it becomes **she**. **Her son** comes after **from**, so we need the object pronoun **him**. Not **I**, because the sentence is about my sister, not me.

9. _____ father says you can post the letter by _____.
✓ **B) your / yourself**
Before the noun **father** we need a possessive adjective: **Your father**. **By yourself** means 'alone', and it must match the subject **you**. Not **myself**, because the subject of **can post** is **you**.

10. I bought the book she said she needed for her homework.

Which is the plural form of this sentence?
✓ **B) We bought the books they said they needed for their homework.**
Each singular word changes to its plural form: **I** → **we**, **book** → **books**, **she** → **they**, **her** → **their**. Not the sentence with **you**, because **she** is third person, and its plural is **they**, not **you**.

11. We have decided not to tell their father.
replace: We / their
✓ **E) My sister and I / the boys'**
We includes the speaker, so it can be replaced by **My sister and I**. **Their** is plural and possessive, so it becomes **the boys'** (= belonging to the boys). Not **My friends**, because that does not include the speaker.

12. "Whose car are we going in, Mr Walker's or your aunt's?"

replace: Mr Walker's / your aunt's
✓ **E) his / hers**
No noun follows, so we need possessive pronouns. **Mr Walker's** (a man) becomes **his**, and **your aunt's** (a woman) becomes **hers**. Not **him**, because **him** is an object pronoun, not a possessive.

13. The police are looking for the robber.

replace: the police / the robber
✓ **A) they / him**
The police is plural and the subject, so it becomes **they**. **The robber** is the object of **looking for**, so it becomes **him**. Not **them**, because the subject needs a subject pronoun.

14. My mother returned the suitcase to the Jacksons. It was their suitcase.

replace: the Jacksons / their suitcase
✓ **C) them / theirs**
After **to** we need an object pronoun: **to them**. **It was their suitcase** becomes **It was theirs**, a possessive pronoun with no noun after it. Not **our**, because it needs a noun and refers to the wrong people.

15. Could you put _____ chair back in _____ place?
✓ **A) my / its**
Before **chair** we need a possessive adjective: **my chair**. The place belongs to the chair, a thing, so we use **its place**. Not **hers**, because a chair is a thing and **hers** can't come before a noun.

16. My sister put her books near my books.

Which sentence is the same?
✓ **C) She put hers near mine.**
My sister is a woman, so she becomes **She**. **Her books** becomes **hers**, and **my books** becomes **mine**. These are possessive pronouns that replace the noun. Not **He**, because the sister is female.

17. Why don't you give the pencil to _____? I'll give _____ back to _____ when I'm finished.
✓ **A) me / it / you**
After **to** we use an object pronoun: **to me**. **The pencil** is a thing, so it becomes **it**. The speaker gives it back **to you**. Not **mine**, because it is a possessive pronoun, not an object.

18. The cats in my backyard are noisy, but the big _____ are the noisiest.
✓ **D) ones**
Ones replaces a plural noun after an adjective: **the big ones** = the big cats. Not **one**, because **are** shows the noun is plural.

19. At the age of two, _____ was able to eat by _____.
✓ **D) she / herself**
By herself means 'alone, without help', and the reflexive pronoun must match the subject. **She** goes with **herself**. Not **he / herself**, because the two words don't match.

20. There are five birds in the cage. _____ is ill; the _____ are healthy.
✓ **D) one / others**
One refers to a single bird. **The others** means the rest of the group (the other four birds) and is used without a noun. Not **the other**, because **other** without a noun needs a plural **-s** here.

21. My children always help _____ with _____ homework when I'm busy.
✓ **B) each other / their**
Each other shows that the children help one another. **Their homework** uses a possessive adjective for the plural **children**. Not **one another / his**, because **his** doesn't match the plural **children**.

22. I tried the new recipe but _____ wasn't very good.
✓ **E) it**
It replaces a singular thing, **the new recipe**, and is the subject of **wasn't**. Not **they**, because **recipe** is singular.

23. John made the dinner _____, hoping to impress _____ guests. Unfortunately, _____ didn't like _____.
✓ **C) himself / his / they / it**
Himself stresses that John did it alone. **His guests** is a possessive adjective before a noun. **They** replaces the guests as subject, and **it** replaces **the dinner** as object. Not **them** in the third gap, because the subject needs a subject pronoun.

24. I know which car is _____ because I have seen Tom driving _____.
✓ **A) his / it**
His is a possessive pronoun (= Tom's car) with no noun after it. **It** is the object pronoun for the car. Not **him**, because the thing being driven is the car, not a person.

25. Neither of _____ came to the dinner party.
✓ **C) them**
After **of** we use an object pronoun, and **neither of** refers to two people, so we need the plural **them**. Not **they**, because it is a subject pronoun.

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