

# PRONOUNS

## Part of Speech — Complete Grammar Guide

### SECTION 1: COMPLETE CONCEPT EXPLANATION

#### 1.1 Definition of Pronoun

A **Pronoun** is a word used in place of a noun or noun phrase to avoid repetition and make sentences more concise. Pronouns refer to persons, places, things, or ideas that have already been mentioned (the antecedent) or are understood from context.

**Example:** 'Ravi studied hard. He passed the exam.' — 'He' is a pronoun replacing 'Ravi'.

#### 1.2 Types and Classifications of Pronouns

Type of Pronoun	Function	Examples
Personal Pronouns	Replace names of persons or things	I, we, you, he, she, it, they, me, us, him, her, them

Possessive Pronouns	Show ownership or belonging	mine, ours, yours, his, hers, its, theirs
Reflexive Pronouns	Reflect the action back to the subject	myself, ourselves, yourself, yourselves, himself, herself, itself, themselves
Emphatic Pronouns	Add emphasis to the subject or object	myself, himself, herself, itself (same form as reflexive, different function)
Demonstrative Pronouns	Point to specific persons or things	this, that, these, those
Indefinite Pronouns	Refer to non-specific persons or things	all, each, either, neither, none, anyone, everyone, somebody, nobody, much, many
Relative Pronouns	Introduce relative clauses; connect clause to antecedent	who, whom, whose, which, that
Interrogative Pronouns	Used to ask questions	who, whom, whose, which, what
Reciprocal Pronouns	Express mutual action between two or more	each other (2 persons), one another (3+ persons)
Distributive Pronouns	Refer to persons or things one at a time	each, either, neither
Compound Relative Pronouns	Combine relative + indefinite meaning	whoever, whomever, whichever, whatever, whosoever

### 1.3 Personal Pronouns — Cases and Forms

Personal pronouns change form based on three **CASES**: Nominative (Subject), Accusative (Object), and Possessive.

Person / Number	Nominative (Subject)	Accusative (Object)	Possessive Adjective	Absolute Possessive
First Person Singular	I	me	my	mine
First Person Plural	we	us	our	ours
Second Person (Sing. & Pl.)	you	you	your	yours
Third Person Sing. (M)	he	him	his	his
Third Person Sing. (F)	she	her	her	hers
Third Person Sing. (Neuter)	it	it	its	its
Third Person Plural	they	them	their	theirs

## 1.4 Rules — Core Focus

The following rules are the backbone of pronoun grammar at intermediate and expert levels.

### **RULE 1: Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement in Number**

- Ex. 1**      *Each student must bring his or her own pen. (NOT: their — 'each' is singular)*
- Ex. 2**      *The children completed their assignments on time. ('their' agrees with plural 'children')*
- Ex. 3**      *Neither of the boys has submitted his project. ('neither' is singular → 'his', not 'their')*

## **RULE 2: Nominative Case After Linking Verbs; Accusative Case After Prepositions**

- Ex. 1 *It is I who am responsible for the project. (NOT: 'It is me who is...')*
- Ex. 2 *Between you and me, the plan has serious flaws. (NOT: 'Between you and I')*
- Ex. 3 *She is more experienced than I [am] in this field. ('than' as conjunction → nominative 'I')*

## **RULE 3: Reflexive Pronouns Cannot Replace Subject or Simple Object Pronouns**

- Ex. 1 *WRONG: 'Myself attended the conference.' | CORRECT: 'I attended the conference.'*
- Ex. 2 *WRONG: 'Please contact myself.' | CORRECT: 'Please contact me.'*
- Ex. 3 *CORRECT emphatic: 'I myself reviewed the entire document.' (stresses the subject)*

## **RULE 4: Collective Nouns Take Singular Pronoun When Acting as One Unit**

- Ex. 1 *The committee announced its decision after a long deliberation. (one body → 'its')*
- Ex. 2 *The jury has delivered its verdict. (single collective decision → 'its')*
- Ex. 3 *The army has revised its recruitment criteria. ('its' — collective singular)*

## **RULE 5: Who vs. Whom — Nominative vs. Accusative Form**

- Ex. 1 *'Who' is SUBJECT: 'The officer who filed the report was transferred.' (He filed → who)*
- Ex. 2 *'Whom' is OBJECT: 'The officer whom I briefed was transferred.' (I briefed him → whom)*
- Ex. 3 *Prepositions need 'whom': 'To whom did you address the letter?' (NOT: 'To who')*

### **RULE 6: Distributive Pronouns — Each, Either, Neither — Always Singular**

- Ex. 1 *Each of the ministers has submitted his or her resignation. (singular verb + pronoun)*
- Ex. 2 *Either of the two solutions leads to the same outcome. ('either' = singular → 'leads')*
- Ex. 3 *Neither of the candidates was found suitable for the post. (NOT: 'were found')*

### **RULE 7: 'Each Other' for Two; 'One Another' for More Than Two**

- Ex. 1 *The two nations agreed to support each other in times of crisis. (exactly two → 'each other')*
- Ex. 2 *The five delegates congratulated one another after the summit. (more than two)*
- Ex. 3 *WRONG: 'The two friends loved one another.' | CORRECT: '...loved each other.'*

### **RULE 8: Relative Pronouns: 'Who/That' for Persons; 'Which/That' for Things**

- Ex. 1 *The officer who/that filed the complaint was later transferred. (person → who/that)*

Ex. 2 *The document which/that was submitted contained errors. (thing → which/that)*

Ex. 3 *WRONG: 'The leader which won the election...' | CORRECT: 'The leader who won...'*

### **RULE 9: Possessive 'Its' vs. Contraction 'It's'**

Ex. 1 *Its = possessive: 'The organisation lost its credibility.' (belonging to the organisation)*

Ex. 2 *It's = it is: 'It's a matter of national security.' (always expandable to 'it is')*

Ex. 3 *WRONG: 'The company failed to meet it's targets.' | CORRECT: '...its targets.'*

### **RULE 10: Whoever vs. Whomever — Role Within the Clause Determines Form**

Ex. 1 *'Whoever' (subject in clause): 'Give this post to whoever is most qualified.' (subject of 'is')*

Ex. 2 *'Whomever' (object in clause): 'He appointed whomever the board recommended.' (object of 'recommended')*

Ex. 3 *The role INSIDE the clause takes priority, regardless of the clause's external function.*

### **RULE 11: Expletive 'It' — Dummy Subject with No Antecedent; Always Singular Verb**

Ex. 1 *It is impossible to complete the mission without adequate resources. ('it' = dummy subject)*

**Ex. 2** *It was the officers who bore the greatest burden of the operation. ('It was...who' cleft)*

**Ex. 3** *WRONG: 'It were the regulations that caused the delay.' | CORRECT: 'It was the regulations...'*

## **RULE 12: Indefinite Pronoun Agreement — Singular, Plural, and Variable Groups**

**Ex. 1** *Singular (always): anyone, everyone, someone, nobody, each, either, neither, one → singular.*

**Ex. 2** *Plural (always): both, few, many, several, others → plural verb and pronoun.*

**Ex. 3** *Variable: all, none, some, any, most, more — agree with the noun they refer to.*

## **Common Pronoun Errors — Correct vs. Incorrect**

### **INCORRECT**

*Between you and I, this is difficult.*

*Myself will attend the meeting.*

*The committee gave their approval.*

*Neither of them are eligible.*

### **CORRECT**

*Between you and me, this is difficult.*

*I will attend the meeting.*

*The committee gave its approval.*

*Neither of them is eligible.*

*The dog wagged it's tail.*

*The dog wagged its tail.*

*Who did you speak with? (formal writing)*

*Whom did you speak with? / With whom did you speak?*

*Each soldier submitted their report.*

*Each soldier submitted his or her report.*

*The two friends loved one another.*

*The two friends loved each other.*

*The leader which won spoke to the crowd.*

*The leader who won spoke to the crowd.*

*It was me who took the final decision.*

*It was I who took the final decision.*

## Memory Tricks & Mnemonics

- WHO vs. WHOM: Replace with 'he/she' → use WHO. Replace with 'him/her' → use WHOM. Both 'him' and 'whom' end in M — a useful reminder.
- ITS vs. IT'S: Expand 'it's' to 'it is'. If the sentence still makes sense, use 'it's'. If not, use possessive 'its'.
- EACH OTHER / ONE ANOTHER: Count the parties. Two → 'each other'. Three or more → 'one another'. Count before you choose.
- PREPOSITION + WHOM: All prepositions demand the accusative case. 'For whom', 'to whom', 'with whom' — never 'who' after a preposition.
- MYSELF TEST: Try replacing 'myself' with 'I' or 'me'. If either fits naturally, do NOT use 'myself'. Reserve 'myself' only for reflexive or emphatic function.
- COLLECTIVE NOUN RULE: One decision, one voice, one action → 'it/its'. Individual members acting separately → 'they/their'.

## SECTION 2: RULES SUMMARY — QUICK REVISION REFERENCE

Rule	Statement	Sharp Example
Rule 1	Pronoun must agree with its antecedent in number.	Each officer must submit his or her report.
Rule 2	Nominative after linking verbs; Accusative after prepositions.	It is I.   Between you and me.
Rule 3	Reflexive pronouns cannot be subjects or simple objects.	'Contact me', not 'contact myself'.
Rule 4	Collective nouns acting as one unit → singular pronoun.	The jury gave its verdict.
Rule 5	Who = subject form; Whom = object form.	Who called?   Whom did you call?
Rule 6	Each, Either, Neither — always singular verb and pronoun.	Neither of them is eligible.
Rule 7	Each other = 2 people; One another = 3 or more.	The two partners helped each other.
Rule 8	Who/That = persons; Which/That = things.	The boy who won.   The book which I read.
Rule 9	Its = possessive; It's = it is. Never confuse them.	Its policy is clear.   It's raining today.
Rule 10	Whoever (subject in clause); Whomever (object in clause).	Give it to whoever needs it most.
Rule 11	Expletive 'it' has no antecedent; always takes singular verb.	It was the officers who responded first.

Rule 12

Indefinite pronouns: singular group → singular; plural group → plural.

Everyone has his or her duty. | Both are present.

## SECTION 3: PRACTICE QUESTIONS — PART 1 (Q1 TO Q60)

### Category 1: Spot the Mistake

*Each question contains a sentence or group of sentences with one or more pronoun errors. Identify the error and correct it — with a clear reason.*

- Q1.** Spot the error: 'Between you and I, this policy is deeply flawed.'
- Q2.** Identify and correct the pronoun error: 'The committee has released their annual report to the public.'
- Q3.** Spot the error: 'Each of the officers have to submit their own assessment report.'
- Q4.** Find the mistake: 'It is me who is responsible for the delay in the project.'
- Q5.** Identify the error: 'Myself and the senior director attended the inauguration ceremony.'
- Q6.** Spot the error: 'The dog injured it's paw while crossing the rocky terrain.'
- Q7.** Correct the following: 'Neither of the two proposals are acceptable to the board.'

**Q8.** Find the pronoun error: 'The army have decided to deploy their additional forces along the border.'

**Q9.** Spot the mistake: 'He is one of those leaders who never admits his mistakes publicly.'

**Q10.** Identify the error: 'One must always fulfill your obligations before claiming one's rights.'

**Q11.** Spot the error: 'The person which filed the complaint has now withdrawn it unconditionally.'

**Q12.** Find the mistake: 'Rama and Sita expressed their devotion for one another throughout their journey.'

**Q13.** Identify and correct: 'The government have published their new defence procurement policy.'

**Q14.** Spot the error: 'Who did the principal award the scholarship to at the annual ceremony?'

**Q15.** Identify all pronoun errors in: 'Everyone in the team must give their best, and they should report to myself by Friday.'

## Category 2: Fill in the Right Word

*Choose the most grammatically precise pronoun to complete each sentence. More than one option may seem correct at first glance — think carefully.*

**Q16.** Fill in the blank: 'The Prime Minister, along with his cabinet colleagues, expressed \_\_\_\_\_ solidarity with the affected families.' (his / their / its / her)

**Q17.** Fill in the blank: 'It is \_\_\_\_\_ who must bear the ultimate responsibility for the failure.' (I / me / my / mine)

**Q18.** Fill in the blank: 'The jury delivered \_\_\_\_\_ verdict after seven days of careful deliberation.' (their / its / his / her)

**Q19.** Fill in the blank: 'Give this assignment to \_\_\_\_\_ is best equipped to handle its complexity.' (whoever / whomever / who / whom)

**Q20.** Fill in the blank: 'This is the same document \_\_\_\_\_ was recovered from the disputed site.' (that / which / who / as)

**Q21.** Fill in the blank: '\_\_\_\_\_ you choose from the available options, ensure it is defensible under the existing framework.' (Whichever / Whatever / Whoever / Whomever)

**Q22.** Fill in the blank: 'She performed far better than \_\_\_\_\_ in every written test conducted this year.' (I / me / my / mine)

**Q23.** Fill in the blank: 'The delegation presented \_\_\_\_\_ consolidated findings to the parliamentary committee.' (its / their / his / her)

**Q24.** Fill in the blank: 'He distributed the responsibilities among \_\_\_\_\_ the selection panel deemed most reliable.' (whoever / whomever / who / whom)

- Q25.** Fill in the blank: 'Neither the director nor the officers submitted \_\_\_\_\_ objection within the stipulated time.' (their / his / its / his or her)
- Q26.** Fill in the blank: 'The police have released \_\_\_\_\_ official statement regarding the incident.' (their / its / his / her)
- Q27.** Fill in the blank: 'The two nations pledged to support \_\_\_\_\_ in all diplomatic endeavours.' (each other / one another / themselves / each one)
- Q28.** Fill in the blank: '\_\_\_\_\_ is she that even her critics cannot deny her contributions to the field.' (Who / Whom / Whose / Such)
- Q29.** Fill in the blank: 'The data, despite \_\_\_\_\_ apparent simplicity, conceals several structural flaws.' (its / their / it's / his)
- Q30.** Fill in the blank: 'He is the only officer in the division \_\_\_\_\_ can be trusted with such sensitive intelligence.' (who / whom / that / which)

### Category 3: Choose the Correct Sentence

Four sentences are given. Only one is grammatically correct. Identify it and explain exactly why the other three are wrong.

- Q31.** Choose the grammatically correct sentence:
- (a) *It is me who is responsible for the oversight.*
- (b) *It is I who am responsible for the oversight.*

- (c) *It is me who am responsible for the oversight.*
- (d) *It is I who is responsible for the oversight.*

**Q32.** Choose the correct sentence:

- (a) *Neither of the candidates were found eligible.*
- (b) *Neither of the candidates was found eligible.*
- (c) *Neither of the candidates have been found eligible.*
- (d) *Neither of the candidates are found eligible.*

**Q33.** Choose the sentence that uses the emphatic pronoun correctly:

- (a) *Myself will deliver the keynote address at the summit.*
- (b) *Please send the final report to myself.*
- (c) *The chairman himself reviewed every clause of the agreement.*
- (d) *The task was accomplished by himself.*

**Q34.** Choose the correct sentence:

- (a) *She and me will lead the investigation team.*
- (b) *Her and I will lead the investigation team.*
- (c) *She and I will lead the investigation team.*
- (d) *Her and me will lead the investigation team.*

**Q35.** Which sentence uses reciprocal pronouns correctly?

- (a) *The two rival nations finally agreed to assist one another.*
- (b) *The two rival nations finally agreed to assist each other.*
- (c) *The seven member nations agreed to assist each other.*

(d) *The three allied forces supported themselves mutually.*

**Q36.** Choose the sentence that correctly uses 'whose':

- (a) *The officer who's application was rejected filed an appeal.*
- (b) *The officer whose application was rejected filed an appeal.*
- (c) *The officer whom application was rejected filed an appeal.*
- (d) *The officer which application was rejected filed an appeal.*

**Q37.** Choose the grammatically correct sentence:

- (a) *Between you and I, the merger is unlikely to succeed.*
- (b) *Between you and me, the merger is unlikely to succeed.*
- (c) *Between you and myself, the merger is unlikely to succeed.*
- (d) *Between I and you, the merger is unlikely to succeed.*

**Q38.** Identify the error-free sentence:

- (a) *The committee has submitted their recommendations to the ministry.*
- (b) *The committee has submitted its recommendations to the ministry.*
- (c) *The committee have submitted its recommendations to the ministry.*
- (d) *The committee submitted they're recommendations to the ministry.*

**Q39.** Choose the correct sentence regarding 'whoever / whomever':

- (a) *Whomever breaks the protocol will face strict disciplinary action.*
- (b) *Whoever breaks the protocol will face strict disciplinary action.*
- (c) *Who breaks the protocol will face strict disciplinary action.*
- (d) *Whom breaks the protocol will face strict disciplinary action.*

**Q40.** Which sentence correctly uses the pronoun after a comparative conjunction?

- (a) *The new recruit performed better than him in the field exercises.*
- (b) *The new recruit performed better than he in the field exercises.*
- (c) *The new recruit performed better than his in the field exercises.*
- (d) *The new recruit performed better than himself in the field exercises.*

**Q41.** Choose the sentence with correct pronoun-antecedent agreement:

- (a) *Each minister and each secretary stated their position clearly.*
- (b) *Each minister and each secretary stated his or her position clearly.*
- (c) *Each minister and each secretary stated its position clearly.*
- (d) *Each minister and each secretary stated our position clearly.*

**Q42.** Which sentence correctly uses an interrogative pronoun?

- (a) *Whom do you think will be selected for the mission?*
- (b) *Who do you think will be selected for the mission?*
- (c) *Whose do you think will be selected for the mission?*
- (d) *Which do you think will be selected for the mission?*

**Q43.** Choose the sentence that correctly uses 'it' as an expletive:

- (a) *It are the officers who must take responsibility.*
- (b) *It were the regulations that caused the failure.*
- (c) *It is the officers who must take responsibility.*
- (d) *It have been proved that he is guilty.*

**Q44.** Choose the correct sentence regarding pronoun case after a linking verb:

- (a) *The person most affected was her.*
- (b) *The person most affected was she.*
- (c) *The person most affected was herself.*
- (d) *The person most affected was hers.*

**Q45.** Which sentence is entirely free of pronoun errors?

- (a) *The police has released its statement on the matter.*
- (b) *The police have released their statement on the matter.*
- (c) *The police has released their statement on the matter.*
- (d) *The police have released its statement on the matter.*

#### Category 4: Analyse, Rewrite & Explain

*These questions require deep analysis of pronoun roles in complex sentences, rewriting for clarity, correcting full paragraphs, or discussing competing grammatical rules — the way a real grammar expert would.*

**Q46.** Deep analysis: Identify every pronoun in the following sentence, state its exact type, grammatical case, and function — 'It was he whom she had trusted unconditionally, yet who, in the end, betrayed her.'

**Q47.** Rewrite to eliminate pronoun ambiguity: 'When the director met the commissioner, he appeared visibly nervous and avoided eye contact.'

**Q48.** Advanced correction: Correct all pronoun errors in the following paragraph and provide a rule-based justification for each change — 'The army announced their new deployment policy. Neither of the two units were

found combat-ready. The task force also expressed their reservations. It is me who have to present the final report.'

**Q49.** Nuanced analysis: Explain the grammatical and semantic difference between — (i) 'The officials who attended the briefing were informed.' (ii) 'The officials, who attended the briefing, were informed.'

**Q50.** Justify your answer: A student writes — 'If any candidate fails to appear, they will be disqualified.' Is 'they' grammatically correct here? Discuss from both the traditional formal grammar perspective and the modern usage perspective.

**Q51.** Transformation: Combine the following three sentences into one precise sentence using appropriate pronouns — 'A witness came forward. The authorities had not identified the witness before. The witness claimed to have recorded the entire incident.'

**Q52.** Expert correction: Identify the error and correct — 'One should always be loyal to your country and do his duty without expecting reward.'

**Q53.** Analyse the pronoun usage: 'The data, in all its complexity, defies simple categorisation.' — (i) Identify the pronoun; (ii) state its type and case; (iii) explain why 'their' would be incorrect here.

**Q54.** Choose the correct option and explain why each of the other three fails: (a) Between you and I, this matter is closed. (b) It was her who authorised the transfer. (c) The committee submitted its final report without dissent. (d) Neither of the officers have filed their complaint.

**Q55.** Pronoun shift correction: Rewrite the following passage correcting all pronoun shifts and agreement errors — 'A good leader must always remember their responsibilities. When one leads, you must set an example. Everyone in the team looks up to them for guidance, and each member of the team should feel that their concerns are heard.'

**Q56.** Reflexive vs. emphatic: State whether each use is reflexive or emphatic and justify: (i) 'She herself drafted every clause of the agreement.' (ii) 'He hurt himself during the exercise.' (iii) 'The president himself inaugurated the facility.' (iv) 'They found themselves in an impossible situation.'

**Q57.** Near-antecedent rule: Correct and explain — 'Neither the general nor the soldiers submitted his report on time.'

**Q58.** Rewrite using a precisely chosen relative pronoun and justify your choice: 'I know a scientist. She has developed a treatment. The treatment has never been tested on humans.'

**Q59.** Expert synthesis: The following sentence contains three pronoun-related errors. Identify all three, state the rule each violates, and write the corrected sentence — 'Everyone in the department have submitted their proposal, and it is them who deserve recognition for its timely completion.'

**Q60.** Critical analysis: Read the following and answer the questions — 'The board of directors, in its capacity as the governing body, decided to exercise their authority to override the decision of the committee, which itself had earlier reversed it's own earlier ruling.' (i) Identify every pronoun and its type. (ii) Spot all errors. (iii) Write the fully corrected sentence.

## SECTION 3: PRACTICE QUESTIONS — PART 2 (ALL 60 ANSWERS)

### Category 1: Spot the Mistake — Answers & Explanations

**Q1. Ans: Error: 'I' should be 'me'.**

**Explanation:** 'Between' is a preposition and all prepositions must be followed by the objective (accusative) case. 'Me' is the object form of 'I'. 'I' is the nominative (subject) form and cannot follow a preposition. Correct: 'Between you and me, this policy is deeply flawed.'

**Q2. Ans: Error: 'their' should be 'its'.**

**Explanation:** 'Committee' is a collective noun. When it acts as a single unified body issuing one report, it takes the singular pronoun 'its'. 'Their' implies individual members acting separately, which is not the case here. Correct: '...released its annual report.'

**Q3. Ans: Errors: 'have' should be 'has'; 'their' should be 'his or her'.**

**Explanation:** 'Each' is a singular distributive pronoun. It always takes a singular verb ('has') and a singular pronoun ('his or her') in formal writing. 'Their' and 'have' both introduce plural agreement, violating the singular nature of 'each'. Correct: 'Each of the officers has to submit his or her own assessment report.'

**Q4. Ans: Error: 'me' should be 'I'; 'is' should be 'am'.**

**Explanation:** After a linking verb ('is'), the subject complement must be in the nominative case — hence 'I', not 'me'. Furthermore, the relative pronoun 'who' refers to 'I' and the verb must agree: 'I am', not 'I is'. Correct: 'It is I who am responsible for the delay.'

**Q5. Ans: Error: 'Myself' should be 'I'.**

**Explanation:** Reflexive pronouns (myself, yourself, etc.) cannot function as subject pronouns. They are used only when (a) the subject and object are the same person, or (b) for emphatic intensification after the noun. Here 'I' is needed as the grammatical subject. Correct: 'The senior director and I attended the inauguration ceremony.'

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**Q6. Ans: Error: 'it's' should be 'its'.**

**Explanation:** 'It's' is a contraction of 'it is'. 'Its' (without apostrophe) is the possessive form of 'it'. The paw belongs to the dog — possessive is required. Expanding the contraction reveals the error: 'The dog injured it is paw' is nonsensical. Correct: '...injured its paw.'

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**Q7. Ans: Error: 'are' should be 'is'.**

**Explanation:** 'Neither' is a singular indefinite pronoun and always takes a singular verb. 'Is' is the correct form. 'Are' treats 'neither' as plural, which is grammatically incorrect. Correct: 'Neither of the two proposals is acceptable to the board.'

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**Q8. Ans: Error: 'have' should be 'has'; 'their' should be 'its'.**

**Explanation:** 'Army' is a collective noun acting as one unified body making a single decision. It requires the singular verb 'has' and singular pronoun 'its'. Using 'have' and 'their' treats the army as individuals acting separately, contradicting the unified nature of the action. Correct: 'The army has decided to deploy its additional forces along the border.'

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**Q9. Ans: Error: 'admits' should be 'admit'.**

**Explanation:** The relative pronoun 'who' refers to its true antecedent — 'those leaders' (plural), not 'one'. The verb in the relative clause must agree with the actual plural antecedent: 'who never admit'. The singular

'admits' incorrectly treats 'one' as the antecedent. Correct: 'He is one of those leaders who never admit their mistakes publicly.'

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**Q10. Ans: Error: 'your' should be 'one's'.**

**Explanation:** When 'one' is established as the impersonal generic pronoun, it must be maintained consistently. Switching to 'your' (second person) creates an ungrammatical person shift. 'One's' is the possessive form of 'one'. Correct: 'One must always fulfill one's obligations before claiming one's rights.'

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**Q11. Ans: Error: 'which' should be 'who'.**

**Explanation:** The relative pronoun 'who' (or 'whom') must be used for persons. 'Which' is reserved for animals and inanimate objects. Since 'the person' is human, 'who' is the correct relative pronoun. Correct: 'The person who filed the complaint has now withdrawn it unconditionally.'

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**Q12. Ans: Error: 'one another' should be 'each other'.**

**Explanation:** 'Each other' is the correct reciprocal pronoun when exactly two persons are involved. 'One another' is used when more than two are involved. Since Rama and Sita are two people, 'each other' is required. Correct: '...expressed their devotion for each other throughout their journey.'

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**Q13. Ans: Error: 'have' should be 'has'; 'their' should be 'its'.**

**Explanation:** 'Government' is a collective noun acting as a single governing authority. It requires the singular verb 'has' and the singular pronoun 'its'. 'Have' and 'their' treat the government as a collection of separate individuals rather than a unified body. Correct: 'The government has published its new defence procurement policy.'

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**Q14. Ans: Error: 'Who' should be 'Whom'.**

**Explanation:** 'Whom' is the object form of the interrogative pronoun. The pronoun is the object of the preposition 'to' — 'the principal awarded the scholarship to him/her'. Substituting 'him' confirms the object form needed → 'whom'. Correct: 'Whom did the principal award the scholarship to?' or 'To whom did the principal award the scholarship?'

**Q15. Ans: Errors: (1) 'their' with 'Everyone' should be 'his or her'; (2) 'they' is a number shift from singular 'everyone'; (3) 'myself' should be 'me'.**

**Explanation:** (1) 'Everyone' is singular → 'his or her' in formal writing. (2) Shifting from singular 'everyone' to plural 'they' violates number agreement. (3) 'Myself' cannot replace the simple object pronoun 'me' — reflexive pronouns cannot function as plain objects. Correct: 'Everyone in the team must give his or her best, and he or she should report to me by Friday.'

## Category 2: Fill in the Right Word — Answers & Explanations

**Q16. Ans: his**

**Explanation:** 'Along with' does not form a compound subject. The main subject is 'The Prime Minister' (singular, masculine), so the pronoun must agree with it: 'his'. The phrase 'along with his cabinet colleagues' is parenthetical. 'Their' would incorrectly imply a compound subject.

**Q17. Ans: I**

**Explanation:** After the linking verb 'is', the subject complement must be in the nominative (subject) case. 'It is I' is the correct formal construction. The full clause: 'It is I who must bear...'. 'Me' is the accusative/object form and is grammatically incorrect as a subject complement after a linking verb.

**Q18. Ans: its**

**Explanation:** 'Jury' functions here as a single decision-making unit delivering one collective verdict. Collective nouns acting as one body take the singular possessive pronoun 'its'. 'Their' would imply individual jurors each delivering a separate verdict — contrary to the meaning.

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**Q19. Ans: whoever**

**Explanation:** The noun clause 'whoever is best equipped' is the object of 'to'. However, within its own clause, the pronoun is the subject of 'is'. The subject role inside the clause takes priority. Therefore 'whoever' (nominative) is correct, not 'whomever' (accusative).

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**Q20. Ans: that**

**Explanation:** After 'the same', 'that' is the preferred relative pronoun in restrictive clauses. 'Which' is also acceptable but more common in non-restrictive clauses. 'Who' is for persons only. 'As' would require a different structural construction ('the same...as').

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**Q21. Ans: Whichever**

**Explanation:** 'Whichever' is a compound relative pronoun meaning 'any one that' from a defined, limited set of options. It correctly introduces the adverb clause here. 'Whatever' refers broadly to things or situations (undefined). 'Whoever/Whomever' refer exclusively to persons, not choices.

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**Q22. Ans: I**

**Explanation:** 'Than' here functions as a conjunction (not a preposition), so the subject form follows. The full sentence: 'She performed far better than I [did] in every written test.' The nominative 'I' is the subject of the understood verb 'did'. Using 'me' would treat 'than' as a preposition — acceptable only in informal usage.

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**Q23. Ans: its**

**Explanation:** 'Delegation' presenting 'consolidated findings' acts as one unified body. Collective nouns acting as one unit take the singular pronoun 'its'. 'Their' would imply individual members presenting separate findings, contradicting 'consolidated'.

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**Q24. Ans: whomever**

**Explanation:** The clause 'whomever the selection panel deemed most reliable' is the object of 'among'. Within this clause, 'whomever' is the object of 'deemed' (the panel deemed him/her reliable). Since the pronoun is the object within the clause, the accusative form 'whomever' is correct.

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**Q25. Ans: his or her**

**Explanation:** In 'neither...nor' constructions, the pronoun agrees with the nearer subject (proximity rule). Here 'the officers' (plural) is nearer — so 'their' is acceptable under that rule. However, in strict formal usage, 'neither...nor' can also require singular agreement throughout: 'his or her'. Formal competitive answer: 'his or her'. Both perspectives should be known.

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**Q26. Ans: their**

**Explanation:** 'Police' is a unique always-plural noun in English — it invariably takes a plural verb and plural pronoun ('their'), unlike collective nouns such as 'committee' or 'jury'. 'The police have released their statement' is correct in all contexts.

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**Q27. Ans: each other**

**Explanation:** 'The two nations' — exactly two parties. 'Each other' is the reciprocal pronoun for two. 'One another' is for three or more. 'Themselves' is reflexive, changing the meaning entirely.

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**Q28. Ans: Who**

**Explanation:** This is an exclamatory sentence. The pronoun functions as the subject complement of the linking verb 'is', requiring the nominative form 'Who'. 'Whom' is accusative. 'Whose' is possessive. 'Such' is not a pronoun in this construction.

**Q29. Ans: its**

**Explanation:** 'Data' is used with a singular verb ('conceals'), treating it as singular. The possessive pronoun must agree: 'its'. 'Their' would agree with plural 'data' but is inconsistent with the singular verb used here. 'It's' is a contraction of 'it is' — incorrect as a possessive.

**Q30. Ans: who / that**

**Explanation:** After 'the only', 'that' is traditionally preferred as the relative pronoun in restrictive clauses. 'Who' is also acceptable for persons. 'Whom' would only be correct if the pronoun were the object of a verb or preposition within the clause. 'Which' is for things only.

**Category 3: Choose the Correct Sentence — Answers & Explanations**

**Q31. Ans: (b) It is I who am responsible for the oversight.**

**Explanation:** After the linking verb 'is', the nominative 'I' is required as the subject complement. 'Who' refers back to 'I' and must agree: 'I am', not 'I is'. Option (a) uses accusative 'me' after a linking verb — incorrect. Option (c) pairs accusative 'me' with 'am' — doubly wrong. Option (d) pairs nominative 'I' with 'is' — correct pronoun but wrong verb agreement with 'who'.

**Q32. Ans: (b) Neither of the candidates was found eligible.**

**Explanation:** 'Neither' is a singular indefinite pronoun and always takes a singular verb. 'Was' is the correct singular past form. Option (a) uses plural 'were'. Option (c) uses plural 'have been'. Option (d) uses plural present 'are'. All three violate the singular agreement required by 'neither'.

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**Q33. Ans: (c) The chairman himself reviewed every clause of the agreement.**

**Explanation:** Emphatic pronouns follow the noun or pronoun they intensify. 'Himself' correctly follows and emphasises 'the chairman'. Option (a) uses 'Myself' as a subject pronoun — incorrect. Option (b) uses 'myself' as an object pronoun — incorrect. Option (d) uses 'himself' as a standalone subject without a preceding noun — grammatically invalid.

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**Q34. Ans: (c) She and I will lead the investigation team.**

**Explanation:** Both pronouns in a compound subject must be nominative. 'She' and 'I' are both subject forms. Test by removing one: 'I will lead' (correct); 'She will lead' (correct). Options (a) and (d) use 'me' — accusative, wrong as subject. Option (b) uses 'Her' — accusative, wrong as subject.

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**Q35. Ans: (b) The two rival nations finally agreed to assist each other.**

**Explanation:** 'Each other' is the reciprocal pronoun for exactly two parties. Two nations = two → 'each other'. Option (a) uses 'one another' for two — incorrect. Option (c) uses 'each other' for seven — incorrect (should be 'one another'). Option (d) uses 'themselves' — a reflexive pronoun with a self-directed meaning, not reciprocal.

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**Q36. Ans: (b) The officer whose application was rejected filed an appeal.**

**Explanation:** 'Whose' is the possessive relative pronoun for persons. It correctly shows the application belongs to the officer. Option (a) uses 'who's' (= 'who is') — a contraction, not a possessive. Option (c) uses 'whom' — the object form, which cannot precede a noun as a possessive. Option (d) uses 'which' — for things, not persons.

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**Q37. Ans: (b) Between you and me, the merger is unlikely to succeed.**

**Explanation:** 'Between' is a preposition requiring the accusative case. 'Me' is the object form. Option (a) uses nominative 'I' after a preposition — incorrect. Option (c) uses 'myself' — a reflexive pronoun cannot function as a simple prepositional object. Option (d) reverses order but still uses nominative 'I' — still incorrect.

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**Q38. Ans: (b) The committee has submitted its recommendations to the ministry.**

**Explanation:** 'Committee' acting as one body → singular verb 'has' + singular pronoun 'its'. Option (a) uses plural 'their' with singular 'has' — inconsistent. Option (c) uses plural 'have' with singular 'its' — inconsistent. Option (d) uses 'they're' (they are) — a contraction, not a possessive, completely wrong in meaning.

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**Q39. Ans: (b) Whoever breaks the protocol will face strict disciplinary action.**

**Explanation:** 'Whoever' introduces the noun clause as the subject of 'will face'. Within its clause, 'whoever' is also the subject of 'breaks' — nominative form is required. Option (a) uses 'Whomever' — accusative, wrong as clause subject. Options (c) and (d) use simple interrogative 'who/whom' which cannot introduce indefinite noun clauses in this way.

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**Q40. Ans: (b) The new recruit performed better than he in the field exercises.**

**Explanation:** 'Than' is a conjunction, not a preposition. Full sentence: 'better than he [performed]'. Subject form 'he' is correct after conjunctive 'than'. Option (a) uses accusative 'him' — informal, incorrect in formal grammar. Option (c) uses possessive 'his' — incorrect. Option (d) uses reflexive 'himself' — no grammatical basis here.

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**Q41. Ans: (b) Each minister and each secretary stated his or her position clearly.**

**Explanation:** When 'each' is used twice connecting two singular subjects, the construction is strongly singular. Formal grammar requires 'his or her'. Option (a) uses 'their' — informal, not accepted with double

'each' in strict formal usage. Option (c) uses 'its' — incorrect for persons. Option (d) uses 'our' — first-person plural with no referent.

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**Q42. Ans: (b) Who do you think will be selected for the mission?**

**Explanation:** The pronoun is the subject of 'will be selected' in the embedded clause. 'Do you think' is a parenthetical aside and does not change the pronoun's role. Substitution: 'He/she will be selected' — subject form → 'who'. Option (a) uses 'Whom' — object form, incorrect here. Options (c) and (d) use possessive/general forms — grammatically inappropriate.

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**Q43. Ans: (c) It is the officers who must take responsibility.**

**Explanation:** Expletive 'it' introduces a cleft sentence and always takes the singular verb 'is'. Options (a) and (b) use plural verbs 'are'/'were' with expletive 'it' — always wrong. Option (d) uses 'have been proved' — does not correctly deploy the cleft 'it...who' construction. Option (c) is a clean, fully correct cleft sentence.

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**Q44. Ans: (b) The person most affected was she.**

**Explanation:** After a linking verb ('was'), the subject complement must be nominative. 'She' is nominative. Test: reverse — 'She was the person most affected' — confirms nominative. Option (a) uses accusative 'her' — incorrect after a linking verb. Option (c) uses emphatic/reflexive 'herself' — no basis here. Option (d) uses absolute possessive 'hers' — grammatically nonsensical.

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**Q45. Ans: (b) The police have released their statement on the matter.**

**Explanation:** 'Police' is always a plural noun in English, invariably taking a plural verb ('have') and a plural pronoun ('their'). Unlike collective nouns (jury, committee) which can be singular or plural, 'police' is always plural. Options (a) and (c) use singular 'has' with 'police' — always incorrect. Option (d) uses plural 'have' but pairs it with singular 'its' — inconsistent.

## Category 4: Analyse, Rewrite & Explain — Answers & Explanations

**Q46. Ans:** It — expletive pronoun (no antecedent, subject position); he — personal pronoun, nominative, subject complement; whom — relative pronoun, accusative, object of 'had trusted'; who — relative pronoun, nominative, subject of 'betrayed'; her — personal pronoun, accusative, object of 'betrayed'.

**Explanation:** Five pronouns, five distinct roles: 'It' is a dummy subject filling the subject slot with no referent — always takes singular verb. 'He' is nominative as subject complement of the linking verb 'was' — not accusative 'him'. 'Whom' is accusative because it is the object of 'had trusted' ('she had trusted him'). 'Who' is nominative because it is the subject of 'betrayed'. 'Her' is accusative as the object of 'betrayed'. The sentence models correct case usage throughout.

**Q47. Ans:** Two possible rewrites depending on intended meaning: (i) 'When the director met the commissioner, the director appeared visibly nervous...' OR (ii) 'When the director met the commissioner, the commissioner appeared visibly nervous...'

**Explanation:** The original is pronominally ambiguous — 'he' could refer to either noun. Two third-person masculine nouns before a pronoun makes reference unclear. Rule: every pronoun must have a clear, unambiguous antecedent. When ambiguity exists, replace the pronoun with the intended noun. The writer must decide the intended meaning before rewriting.

**Q48. Ans: Corrections:** (1) 'their' → 'its'; (2) 'were' → 'was'; (3) 'their' → 'its'; (4) 'me' → 'I'; 'have' → 'am'.

**Explanation:** (1) 'Army' acting as a unified deployment authority → singular pronoun 'its' (Rule 4). (2) 'Neither of the two units' — 'neither' is always singular → 'was found' (Rule 6). (3) 'Task force' as a collective body → 'its reservations' (Rule 4). (4) After linking verb 'is', nominative 'I' is required; 'who' refers back to 'I' and must take 'am' — 'It is I who am to present...' (Rules 2 & 5). Corrected: 'The army announced its new deployment policy. Neither of the two units was found combat-ready. The task force also expressed its reservations. It is I who am to present the final report.'

**Q49. Ans: (i) Restrictive relative clause — defines which officials (only those who attended). (ii) Non-restrictive relative clause — adds information about all officials (all of whom attended).**

**Explanation:** In (i), 'who attended the briefing' is restrictive: it limits 'officials' to only those present. No commas used. Removing the clause changes the meaning materially. In (ii), commas mark the clause as non-restrictive (parenthetical): all officials are already identified, and the clause adds supplementary information. Removing it leaves a complete, unchanged core sentence. Both use 'who', but punctuation and syntactic role are fundamentally different — a critical distinction in formal writing.

**Q50. Ans: Traditional formal grammar: Incorrect — 'they' should be 'he or she'. Modern usage: Increasingly accepted as singular 'they'.**

**Explanation:** 'Any candidate' is singular. Traditional formal grammar requires 'he or she will be disqualified' to maintain singular pronoun-antecedent agreement. However, contemporary grammar — including updates to AP, Chicago, and Oxford style guides — now accepts singular 'they' as a gender-neutral epicene pronoun. In formal competitive examination contexts, 'he or she' remains the safest answer. Students must know both: the traditional rule for strict formal usage, and the modern norm for contemporary written English.

**Q51. Ans: Combined: 'A witness who claimed to have recorded the entire incident came forward, though the authorities had not previously identified her.'**

**Explanation:** 'Who' introduces the relative clause — 'a witness' is a person, and 'who' is the subject of both 'claimed' and 'came forward'. 'Whom' would require the pronoun to be an object. 'Her' replaces 'the witness' as the object of 'identified' (adjust pronoun for gender as appropriate). The three sentences are merged without unnecessary repetition while preserving all information.

**Q52. Ans: Errors: (1) 'your' should be 'one's'; (2) 'his' should be 'one's'. Corrected: 'One should always be loyal to one's country and do one's duty without expecting reward.'**

**Explanation:** When 'one' is established as the impersonal generic pronoun, it must be sustained with 'one' and 'one's' throughout. Switching to 'your' (second person) is a person shift error. Switching to 'his' (third person gendered) is both a person shift and a gender-specificity error. Consistency demands 'one's' for all possessive references following impersonal 'one'.

**Q53. Ans: (i) 'its' — possessive form of the personal pronoun 'it' (functioning as a possessive adjective modifying 'complexity'); (ii) Possessive pronouns do not carry nominative/accusative case — they function adjectivally; (iii) 'Their' would be incorrect because the verb 'defies' is singular, meaning 'data' is treated as singular here, requiring singular 'its'.**

**Explanation:** 'Its' is the third-person singular neuter possessive form of 'it', functioning as a possessive adjective modifying 'complexity'. If 'data' were treated as plural ('the data show'), 'their' could theoretically apply. However, since the verb 'defies' is singular, the writer treats 'data' as singular, making 'their' inconsistent and incorrect in this specific sentence. This demonstrates the importance of internal consistency between verb agreement and pronoun choice.

**Q54. Ans: (c) is correct. The committee submitted its final report without dissent.**

**Explanation:** Option (a): 'Between you and I' — preposition 'between' requires accusative 'me', not nominative 'I'. Violates Rule 2. Option (b): 'It was her who authorised' — after linking verb 'was', nominative 'she' is required as subject complement, not accusative 'her'. Violates Rule 2. Option (c): 'committee...its' — collective noun acting as one body takes singular possessive 'its'. Fully correct. Option (d): 'Neither...have filed their complaint' — 'neither' is singular → 'has filed' and 'his or her complaint'. Violates Rules 2 and 6.

**Q55. Ans: Corrected: 'A good leader must always remember his or her responsibilities. When one leads, one must set an example. Everyone in the team looks up to him or her for guidance, and each member of the team should feel that his or her concerns are heard.'**

**Explanation:** Four errors corrected: (1) 'their' with 'A good leader' (singular) → 'his or her' (Rule 1). (2) 'you must' following 'one leads' — person shift → 'one must' (pronoun consistency rule). (3) 'them' following singular 'Everyone' — number shift → 'him or her' (Rule 1). (4) 'their' with 'each member' (singular) → 'his or her' (Rule 1). All corrections maintain formal singular agreement and eliminate person shifts throughout.

**Q56. Ans: (i) Emphatic — 'herself' intensifies 'She'; (ii) Reflexive — 'himself' is the object of 'hurt', same person as subject; (iii) Emphatic — 'himself' intensifies 'The president'; (iv) Reflexive — 'themselves' is the object of 'found', same persons as subject.**

**Explanation:** (i) 'She herself drafted' — 'herself' adds emphasis ('she and no one else drafted it'); it is not the grammatical object of 'drafted' — emphatic use. (ii) 'He hurt himself' — 'himself' is the direct object of 'hurt'; subject and object are the same person — reflexive use. (iii) 'The president himself inaugurated' — 'himself' emphasises personal involvement, not a grammatical object — emphatic use. (iv) 'They found themselves' — 'themselves' is the direct object of 'found'; subject and object are the same — reflexive use. Key distinction: reflexive = same-subject object; emphatic = intensifier that is NOT the grammatical object.

**Q57. Ans: Correction using proximity rule: 'Neither the general nor the soldiers submitted their report on time.' (proximity rule) OR in strict formal usage: 'Neither the general nor the soldiers submitted his report' is awkward — reorder: 'Neither the soldiers nor the general submitted his report on time.'**

**Explanation:** In 'neither...nor' constructions, the verb and pronoun agree with the nearer subject (proximity rule). 'The soldiers' is the nearer subject and is plural → 'their' is correct under the proximity rule. If the subjects were reversed ('neither the soldiers nor the general'), 'his' (singular, masculine) would apply. The proximity rule is the most practical and widely accepted standard here. Word order directly determines which agreement form is correct.

**Q58. Ans: Combined: 'A witness who claimed to have recorded the entire incident came forward, though she had not been previously identified by the authorities.'**

**Explanation:** 'Who' is the correct relative pronoun — 'a witness' is a person, and 'who' is the subject of 'claimed'. 'That' is also acceptable for persons in restrictive clauses. 'She' replaces 'the witness' as the subject of the second clause, avoiding noun repetition. The passive 'had not been previously identified' neatly handles the reversal from 'the authorities had not identified'. All three sentences are merged into one fluent sentence without redundancy.

**Q59. Ans: Three errors: (1) 'have submitted' with 'Everyone' → 'has submitted' (Rule 12 — indefinite pronoun agreement); (2) 'their proposal' with 'Everyone' → 'his or her proposal' (Rule 1 — pronoun-antecedent agreement); (3) 'it is them' → 'it is they' (Rule 2 — nominative after linking verb). Corrected: 'Everyone in the department has submitted his or her proposal, and it is they who deserve recognition for its timely completion.'**

**Explanation:** (1) 'Everyone' is singular → singular verb 'has'. (2) 'Everyone' is singular → 'his or her' in formal writing. (3) After the linking verb 'is', the nominative form is required — 'they' not 'them'. Note: 'its timely completion' referring to 'proposal' (singular) is correct and is not an error. Three clear rule violations across three pronoun rules in one sentence.

**Q60. Ans: (i) Pronouns: 'its' (possessive personal, adjective), 'their' (possessive personal), 'which' (relative), 'itself' (emphatic), 'it's' (error — intended possessive). (ii) Errors: 'their' should be 'its' (board = collective singular acting as one); 'it's' should be 'its' (possessive, not contraction). (iii) Corrected: 'The board of directors, in its capacity as the governing body, decided to exercise its authority to override the decision of the committee, which itself had earlier reversed its own earlier ruling.'**

**Explanation:** (1) 'their authority' — 'board of directors' is a collective noun acting as one unified body → 'its authority'. Violates Rule 4. (2) 'it's own earlier ruling' — 'it's' = 'it is'; the possessive is 'its'. Violates Rule 9. 'Itself' is correctly used as an emphatic pronoun emphasising that the committee (not anyone else) reversed the ruling. The first 'its' (in its capacity) is correctly singular. Full correction restores both 'its' forms and removes the erroneous apostrophe.