



Which of the following is a gender-neutral alternative to
“Each student should bring his or her book”?

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- A. Each student should bring its book.
- B. Each student should bring their book.
- C. Each student should bring his book.
- D. Each student should bring her book.

Show Answer...

Correct Answer: (b) Each student should bring their book.

Explanation:

The correct answer is “(b) Each student should bring their book.” The use of “their” as a singular pronoun has become increasingly accepted as a way to refer to a single person without specifying gender, making it a useful tool for gender-neutral language.

The Evolution of Gender-Neutral Language in English

The English language is constantly evolving, and one of the most noteworthy changes in recent years has been the increased use of gender-neutral language. This language aims to eliminate gender bias in our words, offering a more inclusive way to speak and write. This article explores the use and importance of gender-neutral language in English.

Defining Gender-Neutral Language

Gender-neutral language, often referred to as gender-inclusive language, avoids bias towards a specific sex or social gender. It includes the use of gender-neutral pronouns, titles, and other linguistic forms that do not specify gender.



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The Singular “They”

The singular “they” has emerged as a popular choice for a gender-neutral pronoun in English. This usage is not entirely new; in fact, it has been part of the English language for centuries. However, it has recently gained greater acceptance in formal writing.

Gender-Neutral Language in Practice

Employing gender-neutral language involves more than just the use of pronouns. It extends to all areas of language where unnecessary gender distinctions might appear, including job titles, generic terms, and more. For example, using “police officer” instead of “policeman” or “policewoman” promotes gender neutrality.

Conclusion

The use of gender-neutral language in English is more than a passing trend—it’s a reflection of societal change toward greater equality and inclusivity. By being mindful of our language choices, we can contribute to a more inclusive and respectful world.

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