



**“You can’t use a plural pronoun in English to refer to one person!”**

## **actually...**

Actually, plural pronouns have already been used this way in English. Singular you was resisted at first just like singular they is today. But it’s been centuries since anybody objected to singular you!

# EXPLANATION

Some say he and she are the only grammatically correct singular personal pronouns, and that you can't change grammar just because it doesn't work for a few people. But languages are living tools created by and for the people who speak them, and when the needs of those speakers change, so do languages. English pronouns have already changed several times in history. From Old to Middle English, people said thou

(singular) and ye (plural) instead of our modern you. After the Norman Conquest of England brought a French influence into English, plural ye became singular and was used to indicate someone's higher status, kind of like plural vous conveys respect in French. However, because social class boundaries were becoming more fluid in England, thou started to feel like an insult as it implied a lower status, so you gradually took over despite facing initial resistance.



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