

Using YOU , ONE , and THEY as Impersonal Pronouns	
a) One should always be polite. b) How does one get to 5th Ave from here? c) You should always be polite. d) How do you get to 5th Ave from here?	In (a) and (b): ONE means "any person" or "people in general." In (c) and (d): YOU means "any person" or "people in general." ONE is more formal than YOU. Impersonal YOU, rather than ONE, is used more frequently in everyday English.
e) One should take care of one's health. f) One should take care of his health. g) One should take care of his or her health.	Notice the pronouns that may be used in the same sentence to refer back to 1: (e) is typical in British usage and formal American usage. (f) is mostly American usage. (g) is stylistically awkward.
h) Did Anne lose her job? Yes. They fired her. i) They mine graphite in Brazil, don't they? Yes. Brazil is one of the leading graphite producers in the world.	THEY is used as an impersonal pronoun in spoken or very informal English to mean "some people or somebody." THEY has no stated antecedent. The antecedent is implied: In (h), THEY = the people Ann worked for.



PRACTICE (People in General = 1; A Specific Person = 2)

1. Jim quit his job to start a business. I think **you** (1) need to follow **your** (1) dreams.
2. Jake, if **you** (2) really want my advice, I think **you** (2) should find a new job.
3. Wool requires special handling. If **you** () wash wool and hot water, it will shrink. **You** () shouldn't throw a wool sweater into a washing machine with **your** () cottons.
4. Alex, I told **you** () not to wash **your** () sweater in hot water. Now look at it. It's ruined!
5. Generosity is its own reward. **You** () always get back more than **you** () give.
6. Sonia, let's make a deal. If **you** () wash the dishes, I'll take out the garbage.
7. The earth's environment is getting worse. **They** () say that the ozone layer is being depleted more and more every year.
8. Memory is selective. Often **you** () remember only what **you** () want to remember. If **you** () asked two people to tell **you** () about an experience **they** () shared, they might tell **you** () two different stories.