

Everyone Has It

Permitted changes:

- A noun phrase is to be supplied in place of [NP]. This noun phrase should remain consistent throughout the script, with the following exceptions:
 - the articles *a* or *an* may be added where required for grammaticality; and
 - if the chosen noun phrase is neither plural nor a noncount noun, it can be pluralized where appropriate.
 - To allow for a rich range of possibilities, note that a noun phrase may include not only the noun itself, but also premodifiers (e.g., quantifiers, numbers, adjectives), and postmodifiers (e.g., prepositional phrases, gerund clauses, relative clauses, declarative content clauses, and infinitives).
 - That said, the term *noun phrase* in this work follows the contemporary linguistic definition (Abney, 1987) in which determiners (e.g., *a, the, your, hers, that, those*) are external to the noun phrase.
- On the lines 7, 11, 103, 113, 148, 156, and 196, the underlined *one* may be replaced with the pronouns *it, they, or them*, depending on number and case, and the verb agreement adjusted accordingly.
- On lines 17, 19, 96, 99, 130, 165, and 167 options are provided to allow for agreement with the number or count of the selected [NP].
- Character names should be supplied in place of [A], [B], et cetera and appropriate gender pronouns may be substituted (and the verb agreement adjusted accordingly.)
- The words *person* and *people* can be replaced with an alternative term if desired.
- The word *god* in line 43 can be replaced if desired.
- The phrase *the world* on line 166 can be replaced if desired.

1. A Oh no.
2. B What?
3. A It's [C] again. She's coming over.
4. B So?
5. A She wants to talk about having [Noun Phrase henceforth known as NP].
6. B Why would she want to do that?
7. A I may have told her I have one.
8. B But you don't.
9. A I know that.

10. B Why did you say that you did?
11. A Because if you don't have one, everyone looks at you funny.
12. B They don't. Do they?
13. A Trust me, I know.
14. B Maybe they sort of do. But who cares.
15. A That's easy for you to say. You've got [NP].
16. B It's not all that matters.
17. A It's the only way to be normal. It's/they're one of those things that everyone is supposed to have.
18. B What's another of those things?
19. A I don't know! I probably don't have one of/(null) those either.
20. B What are you going to do?
21. A I've got an idea.
22. B Tell her the truth.
23. A No! If I do that she'll know I was lying.
24. B You are lying.
25. A Why are you making this so hard?
26. B What's the other option? Create [NP] out of thin air?
27. A How long do you think that would take?
28. B This could go wrong.
29. A I don't have a choice.
30. B The truth will set you free.
31. A Or be really embarrassing.
32. B If you don't tell her, she could get hurt.
33. A And it would be wrong for me to do that?
34. B You could get hurt.

35. A Are you going to tell on me?
36. B I won't.
37. A Thank you.
38. B On one condition.
39. A Which is?
40. B You let me be there.
41. A While I tell her?
42. B While you lie to her.
43. A Oh god! She's coming!
44. B Do we have a deal?
45. A Do I have a choice?
46. B Remember that telling the truth option?
47. C Hello?
48. B She's here.
49. A Fine. Where are you going to be? [*B moves to another location.*] Don't reveal anything about my [NP].
50. B Your non-existent [NP].
51. A Oh [C]!
52. C Thanks so much for meeting with me.
53. A I couldn't think of a reason not to.
54. C I thought it was never going to happen.
55. A What?
56. C It's like you've been avoiding me.
57. A Avoiding you? Nah.
58. C I saw you once and I could have sworn you spotted me, then your back went stiff and you turned around and went the other way.

59. A It must have been someone else.
60. C I'm sure it was you. You had your [*C points to something on A's person*] whatever you call it, so it must have been you.
61. A Oh this? It's very common.
62. C So, how do you feel about your [NP]?
63. A We don't need to dive in just yet.
64. C Please? I'm fascinated. I want to know if your [NP] would be right for me.
65. B I bet you would.
66. C [B]! I had no idea you'd be here.
67. B You know me.
68. C Not very well. I'd love to find out more about your [NP].
69. B Maybe another time, after we've heard all about [A]'s [NP].
70. C Absolutely.
71. A Very little to tell really.
72. C I know you may not think much of it, but it's important to me.
73. B It's not important to [A].
74. C You see, I've always wondered about [NP], which I have of course.
75. A Of course.
76. C But if I'm completely honest, sometimes [NP], my [NP], can make me uneasy. It would help if I could hear how others feel about theirs.
77. A Now's not a good time.
78. C But I've been waiting so long! And the last time we talked you said that you'd actually tell me today.
79. B Why did you do that?
80. A I hoped I'd have come up with an answer by now.
81. B How did that work out?
82. A The truth is...

83. C Yes?
84. B Yes?
85. A I don't think the kind of [NP] I have would suit you.
86. C Can you give me one good reason?
87. A I'd rather not say.
88. C Why's that?
89. A It's personal.
90. C Personal?
91. B So personal that I don't even know!
92. D Oh hello!
93. A Who's this?
94. C I asked if [D] could join us. I hope that's all right.
95. B The more the merrier.
96. A To tell you the truth, I don't feel comfortable talking about it/them with [D] around.
97. C You didn't feel comfortable when they weren't.
98. D Relax. I have a lot of experience talking about [NP].
99. A I thought I was only telling [C] about it/them.
100. B Actually you weren't.
101. D Many people are reluctant to talk about their [NP].
102. C [D]'s been working with me to get [NP]. It's been really difficult.
103. B I thought you already had one.
104. C I misspoke.
105. D She misspoke.
106. C Because I do have [NP], just maybe not the right kind.
107. D It's more common than you might know.

108. B You'd be surprised what I know.
109. D I help people who've been struggling to find [NP].
110. C But, like I said, I have [NP], just not the right kind. Maybe.
111. D Exactly.
112. B Why would you think [A] is who you should be talking to if you've never even seen her [NP]?
113. C Fine! Fine fine fine. I don't have [NP]. Is that what you want me to tell you? I've been trying for so long, but every time I get close to having [NP] it doesn't feel right. I'd almost given up on having [NP], until I met [A]. I thought, if she can have one, maybe I can too.
114. D That was my suggestion. Think of someone who's got [NP] who's like you.
115. C We're a lot alike.
116. B More than you know.
117. C I want to be normal, and the only way to do that is to have [NP].
118. A See?
119. B Touché.
120. D Yes, the only way to be a normal person is to have [NP].
121. B That's not true.
122. D But it is. It's hard for normal people like you and me to understand, because we've always had [NP], but these people, they can feel like misfits, deviants, weirdos, freaks of nature, perv--
123. B I get the picture.
124. C None of you understand how hard it can be.
125. A You'd be surprised.
126. B Very surprised.
127. C Why won't you tell me about yours? I could finally be normal.
128. A I think you need to find your own way.
129. B [A]!

130. C Of course you're saying that! It's another one of those things I'm supposed to know without asking, without having been told. I shouldn't even want [NP], I should just have it/them. Like it was/they were the air in my lungs.
131. A I never said that.
132. B You're not saying anything.
133. A Touché.
134. C Why can't you just say?
135. A Honestly, I don't think you should be asking me.
136. B Honestly?
137. C What's so wrong with me wanting to know?
138. A The thing is, you're too --
139. B NO! No. Why can't you be open and admit it?
140. D What have you been hiding?
141. B She's not like everyone else. Or at least not like most people.
142. D What's that now?
143. A You promised you wouldn't tell her.
144. C Tell me what?
145. A [NP]! I don't have [NP] either.
146. C That can't be true.
147. D Scandalous!
148. B Yes, most people have [NP], but there's nothing wrong with not having one.
149. A You can say that, but not having [NP] makes me wrong.
150. C A deviant.
151. D A freak of nature.
152. B None of that is true. And you, [D], you should be helping [C] understand that. Not humiliating her.
153. C I can't believe what I'm hearing. Why didn't you tell me?

154. A I always thought I was supposed to have [NP].
155. C Me too.
156. A So I learned to hide the fact that I didn't have one. I faked it. I got so good that everyone thought I really did have [NP].
157. C I was convinced.
158. D Let's go find someone else to ask.
159. B Stop. Why can't you just accept that you don't have [NP]?
160. C That would be humiliating.
161. A Everyone would know you weren't normal.
162. D [B], you should admit it.
163. B Admit what? I have [NP].
164. D Don't you see how much better all the people who don't have it/them would feel if someone had the courage to finally stand up and say, "I don't have [NP]"?
165. B I have it/them and I like it/them.
166. D That's what makes you the perfect person to bravely tell the world that you don't.
167. C Not everyone can have [NP]. Not everyone even wants it/them.
168. B If you want someone to tell people that they don't have [NP] then one of you should do it.
169. C But I'm too ashamed.
170. A You know my answer.
171. D You are the right one to do it. You have none of the shame of not having [NP] so you won't be the least embarrassed.
172. B That's nonsense. And why me? If you think that a person with [NP] should proclaim that they don't have [NP], why don't you do it?
173. A That's a good idea.
174. C You'd help so many people like me.
175. D Ah well, here's the thing...*[D pauses for an excruciatingly long time.]*

176. C Were you going to say the thing?
177. D Oh yes, um, I don't really have [NP].
178. ABC *Gasps*
179. D I mean I have [NP], I just don't have [NP] have [NP].
180. A Come again?
181. C Why did you say you could help me then?
182. B Let him speak.
183. D I've never fully had [NP], at least not enough to be proud of, to make me normal, so I just pretend and hope nobody notices.
184. A Fraud!
185. C Honestly!
186. B Honestly? You two are no better.
187. C Perhaps I shouldn't have been so quick to ...
188. A I'm sorry if you felt hurt by my use of the term ...
189. B You all should show some acceptance for [D] and for yourselves. It's okay not to have [NP] or not to have [NP] just like everyone else's. People can be people without [NP].
190. C Whoa.
191. D Well put.
192. A Absolutely.
193. C In fact, it might even be better not to have [NP].
194. B What's that now?
195. A You know you're right. We are still free to go find our own [NP].
196. C Or never to find one.
197. D Or to have a different kind of [NP].
198. C Exactly.
199. B Sure, but you'd all actually prefer to have [NP].

200. A I don't know. Having [NP] limits a person.
201. C I like being more than just my [NP].
202. D Especially not having some ordinary [NP].
203. B Hold on. It's not normal not to have [NP].
204. D A person can still be a person, even if they've got [NP].
205. A It's not all that matters.

Line count: A=64, B=61, C=52, D=27

References

Abney, S. P. 1987. *The English noun phrase in its sentential aspect*. Ph. D. thesis, MIT, Cambridge MA.