Name: Date: Score: / 8

Clear Pronoun References: Learn and Practice

Spot and fix pronouns that are unclear

Read each question. Circle the best answer.

💡 Clear Pronoun References

- Every pronoun needs a clear antecedent, the noun it replaces.
- A reference is vague when a reader cannot tell which noun the pronoun means.
- Fix it by naming the noun again or rewording the sentence.
- Vague: Ana told Mia she won. Clear: Ana told Mia that Mia won.

1 Read: I forgot my lunch and missed the bus. This made me grumpy. Why is this vague?

A. Grumpy is the wrong word

B. This should be These

C. This could mean either event or both

D. This is spelled wrong

2 Which revision fixes: When Ella put the vase on the shelf, it broke?

A. When Ella shelved it, it broke.

B. It broke when she put it there.

C. When Ella put it up, it broke.

D. The vase broke as Ella shelved it.

3 Why is this unclear: Jake called Omar after he got home?

A. We cannot tell who got home B. It has no verb

C. It has too many commas D. It is a question

4 What is an antecedent?

A. The last word in a sentence

B. A verb in the past tense

C. A word that ends in ly

D. The noun a pronoun replaces

5 Which sentence has a clear pronoun?

A. Mom told Aunt Jo she was right.

B. Ben asked Leo if he could go.

C. Priya said she would bring juice.

D. Priya told Kim she was late.

6 In: The dogs wagged their tails, what does their refer to?

A. the owners B. the people C. the dogs

D. the tails

7 What is vague about: They say the lake will freeze soon?

A. Lake needs a capital letter

B. They has no clear antecedent

C. Soon should come first

D. Freeze is the wrong verb

8 In: Lila lost her hat, who is the antecedent of her?

A. lost B. a friend C. hat D. Lila

✏️ Explain it! In your own words, write the rule for clear pronoun references and one example.

ANSWER KEY

Clear Pronoun References: Learn and Practice (answers)

Spot and fix pronouns that are unclear

Read each question. Circle the best answer.

1 Read: I forgot my lunch and missed the bus. This made me grumpy. Why is this vague?

A. Grumpy is the wrong word

B. This should be These

C. This could mean either event or both

D. This is spelled wrong

This does not point to one clear noun. Saying These two mishaps would be clearer.

2 Which revision fixes: When Ella put the vase on the shelf, it broke?

A. When Ella shelved it, it broke.

B. It broke when she put it there.

C. When Ella put it up, it broke.

D. The vase broke as Ella shelved it.

Naming the vase as the thing that broke removes the confusion about the shelf.

3 Why is this unclear: Jake called Omar after he got home?

A. We cannot tell who got home

B. It has no verb C. It has too many commas

D. It is a question

He could mean Jake or Omar, so readers cannot be sure who got home.

4 What is an antecedent?

A. The last word in a sentence

B. A verb in the past tense

C. A word that ends in ly

D. The noun a pronoun replaces

An antecedent is the noun that a pronoun points back to.

5 Which sentence has a clear pronoun?

A. Mom told Aunt Jo she was right.

B. Ben asked Leo if he could go.

C. Priya said she would bring juice.

D. Priya told Kim she was late.

Only Priya is named before she, so the pronoun has one clear antecedent.

6 In: The dogs wagged their tails, what does their refer to?

A. the owners B. the people **C. the dogs**

D. the tails

The tails belong to the dogs, so their refers to the dogs.

7 What is vague about: They say the lake will freeze soon?

A. Lake needs a capital letter

B. They has no clear antecedent

C. Soon should come first

D. Freeze is the wrong verb

We never learn who they are. Naming the source, like weather experts, makes it clear.

8 In: Lila lost her hat, who is the antecedent of her?

A. lost B. a friend C. hat **D. Lila**

Her points back to Lila, so Lila is the antecedent.