

Pronoun Detectives

Find sentences that point clearly.

4.L.GC.1.45 "Usage: Recognize and correct vague pronoun references. (Introduce)"

NAME _____

DATE _____

CLEAR REFERENCE

A pronoun clearly points to one noun. You know exactly who or what the pronoun means.

A rabbit hops inside its burrow.

VAGUE REFERENCE

A pronoun could point to more than one noun, or to no noun. You cannot tell exactly who or what it means.

Mia spoke with Nora, and she smiled.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle CLEAR or VAGUE for each sentence, then choose two items and explain how you knew.

1. Darius hung his coat beside the door.

CLEAR

VAGUE

2. Firefighters cleaned their trucks after the parade.

CLEAR

VAGUE

3. Owen thanked Marcus because he found the missing map.

CLEAR

VAGUE

4. The kitten chased her toy across the rug.

CLEAR

VAGUE

5. Leah met Grace after her bus arrived at the library.

CLEAR

VAGUE

6. Diego handed Amir his calculator.

CLEAR

VAGUE

7. Sailors raised their flag before sunset.

CLEAR

VAGUE

8. Ms. Park called Mrs. Reed after her name appeared on the list.

CLEAR

VAGUE

2 PROVE IT Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN One of each

Write one new sentence with a clear pronoun reference and one new sentence with a vague pronoun reference.

CLEAR _____

VAGUE _____

CHALLENGE

Rewrite one VAGUE sentence from Part 1 to make the meaning clear.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Darius hung his coat beside the door.	CLEAR	His can only refer to Darius.
2	Firefighters cleaned their trucks after the parade.	CLEAR	Their refers to the firefighters.
3	Owen thanked Marcus because he found the missing map.	VAGUE	He could refer to Owen or Marcus.
4	The kitten chased her toy across the rug.	CLEAR	Her refers to the kitten.
5	Leah met Grace after her bus arrived at the library.	VAGUE	Her could refer to Leah or Grace.
6	Diego handed Amir his calculator.	VAGUE	His could refer to Diego or Amir.
7	Sailors raised their flag before sunset.	CLEAR	Their refers to the sailors.
8	Ms. Park called Mrs. Reed after her name appeared on the list.	VAGUE	Her could refer to Ms. Park or Mrs. Reed.

PART 2 • PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 • MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **CLEAR:** The astronaut adjusted her helmet.
- **VAGUE:** Eli waved to Noah when he entered the gym.

Challenge: After Marcus found the missing map, Owen thanked him.

CLEAR: 1, 2, 4, 7. VAGUE: 3, 5, 6, 8. In Part 2, students should name the pronoun and explain whether it can point to one noun or more than one noun.