

# Pronoun Detective Sort

Find references that are clear or vague.

**5.L.GC.1.45** "Usage: Recognize and correct vague pronoun references. (Continue)"

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## CLEAR REFERENCE

A pronoun has a clear reference when you can tell exactly which noun it names. One noun makes sense as the pronoun's match.

Nora tuned the violin, then she played it.

## VAGUE REFERENCE

A pronoun has a vague reference when it could name more than one noun, or when its match is unclear. The reader cannot tell exactly what the pronoun means.

The lantern stood near the backpack until it fell.

## 1 SORT \_\_\_\_\_ 8 items

For Part 1, circle CLEAR or VAGUE for each sentence; for Part 2, pick two items and explain what noun each pronoun names or why the pronoun could name more than one noun.

- |                                                                |                                      |                                      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Darius packed the helmets after he cleaned them.            | <input type="button" value="CLEAR"/> | <input type="button" value="VAGUE"/> |
| <hr/>                                                          |                                      |                                      |
| 2. The squirrel watched the rabbit as it ran under the fence.  | <input type="button" value="CLEAR"/> | <input type="button" value="VAGUE"/> |
| <hr/>                                                          |                                      |                                      |
| 3. Ava handed Lily the paintbrush because she needed it.       | <input type="button" value="CLEAR"/> | <input type="button" value="VAGUE"/> |
| <hr/>                                                          |                                      |                                      |
| 4. The campers loaded the canoe, and they tied it to the dock. | <input type="button" value="CLEAR"/> | <input type="button" value="VAGUE"/> |
| <hr/>                                                          |                                      |                                      |
| 5. Omar solved the puzzle, and Ms. Chen thanked him.           | <input type="button" value="CLEAR"/> | <input type="button" value="VAGUE"/> |
| <hr/>                                                          |                                      |                                      |
| 6. The scientist labeled the jars before she stored them.      | <input type="button" value="CLEAR"/> | <input type="button" value="VAGUE"/> |
| <hr/>                                                          |                                      |                                      |
| 7. Ben told Carlos that he had won the contest.                | <input type="button" value="CLEAR"/> | <input type="button" value="VAGUE"/> |
| <hr/>                                                          |                                      |                                      |
| 8. The eagle flew over the cliffs until it reached its nest.   | <input type="button" value="CLEAR"/> | <input type="button" value="VAGUE"/> |
| <hr/>                                                          |                                      |                                      |

## 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

For Part 3, write one new sentence with a CLEAR pronoun reference and one new sentence with a VAGUE pronoun reference.

**CLEAR** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**VAGUE** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### CHALLENGE

Rewrite this sentence so the pronoun reference is clear: After Maya called Zoe, she sent the photo.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## PART 1 • SORT

| # | ITEM                                                        | CATEGORY     | WHY                                                       |
|---|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Darius packed the helmets after he cleaned them.            | <b>CLEAR</b> | He refers to Darius, and them refers to the helmets.      |
| 2 | The squirrel watched the rabbit as it ran under the fence.  | <b>VAGUE</b> | It could refer to the squirrel or the rabbit.             |
| 3 | Ava handed Lily the paintbrush because she needed it.       | <b>VAGUE</b> | She could refer to Ava or Lily.                           |
| 4 | The campers loaded the canoe, and they tied it to the dock. | <b>CLEAR</b> | They refers to the campers, and it refers to the canoe.   |
| 5 | Omar solved the puzzle, and Ms. Chen thanked him.           | <b>CLEAR</b> | Him clearly refers to Omar.                               |
| 6 | The scientist labeled the jars before she stored them.      | <b>CLEAR</b> | She refers to the scientist, and them refers to the jars. |
| 7 | Ben told Carlos that he had won the contest.                | <b>VAGUE</b> | He could refer to Ben or Carlos.                          |
| 8 | The eagle flew over the cliffs until it reached its nest.   | <b>CLEAR</b> | It refers to the eagle, and its refers to the eagle.      |

## 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:** Tanya washed the bicycle, then she parked it in the garage.
- **VAGUE:** The baker spoke to the cashier before she opened the store.

**Challenge:** After Maya called Zoe, Maya sent the photo.

For Part 2, students should name the noun each pronoun refers to in a CLEAR item or name both possible nouns in a VAGUE item. Accept varied Part 3 sentences when the references match the chosen categories.