

Pronoun Detective Sort

Find references readers can follow.

6.L.GC.1.45 "Usage: Recognize and correct vague pronoun references. (Master)"

NAME _____

DATE _____

CLEAR REFERENCE

A clear pronoun points to one specific noun. Readers know exactly who or what the pronoun means.

The dolphin splashed its tail beside the boat.

VAGUE REFERENCE

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

When Leah greeted Devon, he waved.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Part 1: Read each sentence and circle CLEAR or VAGUE; Part 2: choose two numbered sentences and explain which noun each pronoun names or why the reference is unclear.

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. The turtle pulled its head into its shell. | <input type="button" value="CLEAR"/> | <input type="button" value="VAGUE"/> |
| <hr/> | | |
| 2. When Aisha spoke to Nora, she smiled. | <input type="button" value="CLEAR"/> | <input type="button" value="VAGUE"/> |
| <hr/> | | |
| 3. The seedlings needed water, so Mr. Bell gave it to them. | <input type="button" value="CLEAR"/> | <input type="button" value="VAGUE"/> |
| <hr/> | | |
| 4. They decided to cancel the game. | <input type="button" value="CLEAR"/> | <input type="button" value="VAGUE"/> |
| <hr/> | | |
| 5. Marcus put the lantern beside the gate because it was broken. | <input type="button" value="CLEAR"/> | <input type="button" value="VAGUE"/> |
| <hr/> | | |
| 6. The painter cleaned her brushes after the lesson. | <input type="button" value="CLEAR"/> | <input type="button" value="VAGUE"/> |
| <hr/> | | |
| 7. The club held meetings on Fridays before the twins joined it. | <input type="button" value="CLEAR"/> | <input type="button" value="VAGUE"/> |
| <hr/> | | |
| 8. The astronauts checked their helmets before they entered the capsule. | <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

Write one sentence with a CLEAR pronoun reference and one sentence with a VAGUE pronoun reference. Label each sentence.

CLEAR _____

VAGUE _____

CHALLENGE

Rewrite this sentence so it clearly shows that Kai sent the message and Kai deleted the message: When Kai texted Rowan, he said the schedule had changed. Then he deleted it.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The turtle pulled its head into its shell.	CLEAR	Both uses of its clearly refer to the turtle.
2	When Aisha spoke to Nora, she smiled.	VAGUE	She could refer to Aisha or Nora.
3	The seedlings needed water, so Mr. Bell gave it to them.	CLEAR	It refers to water, and them refers to the seedlings.
4	They decided to cancel the game.	VAGUE	They has no named antecedent.
5	Marcus put the lantern beside the gate because it was broken.	VAGUE	It could refer to the lantern or the gate.
6	The painter cleaned her brushes after the lesson.	CLEAR	Her refers to the painter.
7	The club held meetings on Fridays before the twins joined it.	CLEAR	It refers to the club.
8	The astronauts checked their helmets before they entered the capsule.	CLEAR	Their and they both refer to the astronauts.

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 violinist tuned her instrument before she performed.
- **VAGUE:** When Omar met Luis at the library, he was carrying a backpack.

Challenge: Kai sent Rowan a message saying that the schedule had changed. Then Kai deleted the message.

For Part 2, students should name the antecedent for a CLEAR sentence or identify the possible antecedents or missing antecedent for a VAGUE sentence. Accept varied Part 3 sentences when each category is correctly shown.