Who Does It Mean?

Sort sentences by how clearly their pronouns point to a noun.

6.W.6.a "Pronouns – Using a variety of pronouns, including subject, object, possessive, and reflexive; ensuring pronoun antecedent agreement; recognizing and correcting vague pronouns (i.e., ones with unclear or ambiguous antecedents)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

CLEAR

A pronoun is clear when you can tell exactly which noun it refers to.

The rabbit cleaned **its** paws.

VAGUE

A pronoun is vague when it could refer to more than one noun. The reader cannot tell which one is meant.

When Carmen greeted Elena, **she** smiled.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle CLEAR or VAGUE for each bold pronoun, then pick two items and explain how you knew.

1. Malik packed **his** lunch before school. CLEAR VAGUE
2. The aunt handed the uncle a coat because **he** was cold. CLEAR VAGUE
3. Ava emailed Nora because **she** needed the notes. CLEAR VAGUE
4. Zoe called the boy when **he** arrived. CLEAR VAGUE
5. When Omar visited Leo, **he** brought a chessboard. CLEAR VAGUE
6. Tessa thanked June after **she** finished the mural. CLEAR VAGUE
7. The kitten slipped beneath the fence because **it** saw a bird. CLEAR VAGUE
8. The students put **their** backpacks by the door. 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 and one with a VAGUE pronoun; bold is not needed.

CLEAR _____

VAGUE _____

CHALLENGE

Rewrite one VAGUE sentence from Part 1 so the reader knows exactly who is meant.

ANSWER KEY

Who Does It Mean?

GRADE 6 · 6.W.6.a

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Malik packed **his** lunch before school.	**CLEAR**	His refers to Malik.
2	The aunt handed the uncle a coat because **he** was cold.	**CLEAR**	He refers to the uncle, not the aunt.
3	Ava emailed Nora because **she** needed the notes.	**VAGUE**	She could refer to Ava or Nora.
4	Zoe called the boy when **he** arrived.	**CLEAR**	He refers to the boy.
5	When Omar visited Leo, **he** brought a chessboard.	**VAGUE**	He could refer to Omar or Leo.
6	Tessa thanked June after **she** finished the mural.	**VAGUE**	She could refer to Tessa or June.
7	The kitten slipped beneath the fence because **it** saw a bird.	**CLEAR**	It refers to the kitten, since a fence cannot see.
8	The students put **their** backpacks by the door.	**CLEAR**	Their refers to the students.

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 checked her helmet.
- **VAGUE**: When Felix spoke to Mateo, he laughed.

Challenge: Ava emailed Nora because Nora needed the notes.

For Part 2, students should name the possible nouns. For example, item 1 points to Malik only, while item 3 could point to Ava or Nora.