Pronoun Detective

Can you tell who a pronoun means?

L.6.1.a "Recognize vague pronouns and correct pronoun errors, including but not limited to subjective, objective, possessive and intensive pronouns."

NAME _____ DATE _____

CLEAR PRONOUN

A clear pronoun points to one specific person or thing in the sentence.

The chef sharpened her knife before dinner.

VAGUE PRONOUN

A vague pronoun could point to more than one person or thing. The reader cannot tell which one the writer means.

Tara and Zoe practiced, but she forgot the steps.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle CLEAR or VAGUE for each numbered sentence; then choose two item numbers and explain how you knew each answer.

1.	1. Nora packed her lunch before school.	CLEAR VAGUE
2.	2. The puppy wagged its tail at the gate.	CLEAR VAGUE
3.	3. When Ana called Eva, she was at the library.	CLEAR VAGUE
4.	4. Mr. Diaz watered his plants on Saturday.	CLEAR VAGUE
5.	5. The bus stopped because it reached the station.	CLEAR VAGUE
6.	6. Jade told Mia that she had won the contest.	CLEAR VAGUE
7.	7. The bowl bumped the cup, and it fell off the shelf.	CLEAR VAGUE
8.	8. Amir found his coat in the closet.	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; underline the pronoun in each sentence.

CLEAR _____

VAGUE _____

CHALLENGE

Rewrite one VAGUE item so its pronoun clearly points to one person or thing; include the item number.

ANSWER KEY

Pronoun Detective

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	1. Nora packed her lunch before school.	**CLEAR**	Her points to Nora.
2	2. The puppy wagged its tail at the gate.	**CLEAR**	Its points to the puppy.
3	3. When Ana called Eva, she was at the library.	**VAGUE**	She could mean Ana or Eva.
4	4. Mr. Diaz watered his plants on Saturday.	**CLEAR**	His points to Mr. Diaz.
5	5. The bus stopped because it reached the station.	**CLEAR**	It points to the bus.
6	6. Jade told Mia that she had won the contest.	**VAGUE**	She could mean Jade or Mia.
7	7. The bowl bumped the cup, and it fell off the shelf.	**VAGUE**	It could mean the bowl or the cup.
8	8. Amir found his coat in the closet.	**CLEAR**	His points to Amir.

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 librarian returned her cart to the desk.
- **VAGUE**: When Leo visited Max, he brought a board game.

Challenge: 3. While Ana was at the library, she called Eva.

For Part 2, accept any two items if the student identifies the pronoun and explains who it points to or names both possible people or things. The challenge sample keeps the pronoun she but makes Ana its clear referent.