Who Does It Mean?

Sort pronouns by how clearly they point to a noun.

L.6.1 "In both written and oral expression: Recognize vague pronouns and correct pronoun errors, including but not limited to subjective, objective, possessive and intensive pronouns..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

CLEAR PRONOUN

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

The lantern flickered until **it** went out.

VAGUE PRONOUN

A pronoun is vague when it could mean two or more nouns.

The violin lay beside the cello when **it** broke.

1 SORT

8 items

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

1. Jalen found a shell, and **he** showed it to his class. CLEAR VAGUE
2. The puppy chased the kitten until **it** hid. CLEAR VAGUE
3. Sofia talked to Priya before **she** left. CLEAR VAGUE
4. The hikers rested because **they** were tired. CLEAR VAGUE
5. A single oak lost **its** leaves in October. CLEAR VAGUE
6. The bowl touched the plate before **it** cracked. CLEAR VAGUE
7. Theo missed the bus, so **he** walked home. CLEAR VAGUE
8. The dancers bowed when **they** heard applause. 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 or underline the pronoun in each sentence.

CLEAR _____

VAGUE _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one VAGUE item from Part 1 and rewrite it twice, once to show each possible meaning clearly.

ANSWER KEY

Who Does It Mean?

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Jalen found a shell, and **he** showed it to his class.	**CLEAR**	He can refer only to Jalen.
2	The puppy chased the kitten until **it** hid.	**VAGUE**	It could refer to the puppy or the kitten.
3	Sofia talked to Priya before **she** left.	**VAGUE**	She could refer to Sofia or Priya.
4	The hikers rested because **they** were tired.	**CLEAR**	They refers to the hikers.
5	A single oak lost **its** leaves in October.	**CLEAR**	Its refers to the oak.
6	The bowl touched the plate before **it** cracked.	**VAGUE**	It could refer to the bowl or the plate.
7	Theo missed the bus, so **he** walked home.	**CLEAR**	He refers to Theo.
8	The dancers bowed when **they** heard applause.	**CLEAR**	They refers to the dancers.

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**: Mina checked the oven before **she** served dinner.
- **VAGUE**: The scarf fell onto the coat, and **it** got wet.

Challenge: Item 2: The puppy chased the kitten until the kitten hid. The puppy chased the kitten until the puppy hid.

Accept explanations that name the noun a clear pronoun refers to or identify both possible nouns for a vague pronoun. For the challenge, both rewrites must make different meanings clear.