Pronoun Path Check

Follow the pronouns through each sentence.

5.LF.39.b "Identify inappropriate shifts in pronoun number and person."

NAME _____ DATE _____

PRONOUNS STAY

Both actions belong to the same person or group. The subject pronouns keep the same person and number.

I sketched a comet, and then I colored it.

PRONOUNS SHIFT

Both actions belong to the same person or group, but the subject pronouns switch person or number.

You polished the mirror, and then I hung it.

1 SORT

8 items

Part 1: Circle STAYS or SHIFTS for each sentence, assuming the same person or group does both actions; Part 2: choose one item from each category and explain how you knew where each belongs.

1. I tied my shoes, and then you raced to the bus. STAYS SHIFTS

2. She rinsed the grapes, and then she ate them. STAYS SHIFTS

3. They built a fort, and then they played inside it. STAYS SHIFTS

4. We planted the seeds, and then I watered them. STAYS SHIFTS

5. You packed the bags, and then you carried them. STAYS SHIFTS

6. We gathered shells, and then we washed them. STAYS SHIFTS

7. I stirred the soup, and then I tasted it. STAYS SHIFTS

8. You stacked the blocks, and then I counted them. STAYS SHIFTS

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Choose one item from each category and explain how you knew where each belongs.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Part 3: Write one new sentence in which the subject pronouns STAY the same and one in which they SHIFT, assuming the same person or group does both actions.

STAYS _____

SHIFTS _____

CHALLENGE

Rewrite item 4 so its subject pronouns match, then tell whether the original shift was in person or number.

ANSWER KEY

Pronoun Path Check

GRADE 5 · 5.LF.39.b

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	I tied my shoes, and then you raced to the bus.	**SHIFTS**	The subject changes from first person, I, to second person, you.
2	She rinsed the grapes, and then she ate them.	**STAYS**	Both subject pronouns are she.
3	They built a fort, and then they played inside it.	**STAYS**	Both subject pronouns are they.
4	We planted the seeds, and then I watered them.	**SHIFTS**	The subject changes in number from plural we to singular I.
5	You packed the bags, and then you carried them.	**STAYS**	Both subject pronouns are you.
6	We gathered shells, and then we washed them.	**STAYS**	Both subject pronouns are we.
7	I stirred the soup, and then I tasted it.	**STAYS**	Both subject pronouns are I.
8	You stacked the blocks, and then I counted them.	**SHIFTS**	The subject changes from second person, you, to first person, I.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Task: Choose one item from each category and explain how you knew where each belongs.
Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **STAYS**: He opened the box, and then he looked inside.
- **SHIFTS**: We crossed the bridge, and then you stopped to rest.

Challenge: We planted the seeds, and then we watered them. The original shift was in number.

For Part 2, explanations should name the two subject pronouns and tell whether they match or how they shift. Accept varied Part 3 sentences when the pronouns clearly refer to the same doer.