Pronoun Detective

Can you tell what each pronoun means?

6.L.1 "Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking; retain and further develop language skills learned in previous grades. Ensure that pronouns are in the proper case (subjective..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

CLEAR PRONOUN

A clear pronoun points to one noun in the sentence. You can tell exactly who or what it means.

The astronaut polished her helmet.

VAGUE PRONOUN

A vague pronoun could point to more than one noun. The reader cannot tell exactly who or what it means.

The violinist told the drummer that she missed the cue.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle CLEAR or VAGUE for each sentence, then choose two items and explain which noun each pronoun means or why you cannot tell.

1. The baker forgot his apron at home. CLEAR VAGUE
2. Owen called Liam after he finished dinner. CLEAR VAGUE
3. The puppy sat beside the kitten while it slept. CLEAR VAGUE
4. The librarian closed the book because it was torn. CLEAR VAGUE
5. Tariq found his keys beneath the sofa. CLEAR VAGUE
6. When the timer beeped, it startled Noor. CLEAR VAGUE
7. The red truck passed the blue van before it turned left. CLEAR VAGUE
8. The campers carried their tents across the field. 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 sentence with a clear pronoun and one with a vague pronoun; underline the pronoun in each.

CLEAR _____

VAGUE _____

CHALLENGE

Rewrite one vague sentence from Part 1 so its pronoun is clear, then name the noun the pronoun means.

ANSWER KEY

Pronoun Detective

GRADE 6 · 6.L.1

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The baker forgot his apron at home.	**CLEAR**	His refers to the baker.
2	Owen called Liam after he finished dinner.	**VAGUE**	He could refer to Owen or Liam.
3	The puppy sat beside the kitten while it slept.	**VAGUE**	It could refer to the puppy or the kitten.
4	The librarian closed the book because it was torn.	**CLEAR**	It refers to the book.
5	Tariq found his keys beneath the sofa.	**CLEAR**	His refers to Tariq.
6	When the timer beeped, it startled Noor.	**CLEAR**	It refers to the timer.
7	The red truck passed the blue van before it turned left.	**VAGUE**	It could refer to the truck or the van.
8	The campers carried their tents across the field.	**CLEAR**	Their refers to the campers.

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 gardener watered his roses.
- **VAGUE**: Nina sat beside Eva because she felt cold.

Challenge: After Owen finished dinner, he called Liam. He means Owen.

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify the pronoun and its possible nouns. For example, in item 2, he could mean Owen or Liam; in item 4, it means the book.