Pronoun detectives: answers and notes

What your child practised: spotting pronouns (words such as he, she, it and they that stand in for nouns) and saying which noun each one stands for (Year 4 grammar).

Page 1 · Warm up

1. **it** · 2. **she** · 3. **I**, **We**, **it**

Page 2 · Try it together

Answers will vary. Check by reading the sentence again with the noun in the pronoun's place.

Page 2 · A. Ring the pronouns

1. **she**, **it** · 2. **they**, **me**
3. **us**, **we**, **him** · 4. **It**

Page 3 · B. Who or what?

1. **the snowman** · 2. **her brothers** (Ava's)
3. **Mum** · 4. **the pilot**

Page 3 · C. Fill the gaps

1. **They** · 2. **He** · 3. **it** · 4. **She** · 5. **They**

Page 3 · D. Two sentences

Answers will vary, e.g. *Biscuit is our dog. **He** loves walks.* Check the ringed word is a pronoun that matches its noun.

Challenge: No. *The twins* are two people, so the pronoun should be **They**: *"The twins came to tea. They ate all the cake." He* is only for one person. (If one twin ate it all, name that twin instead.)

Watch out for

- **Using he or she for more than one** (*The twins… he*). Ask: "Is it one person, or more than one?" More than one needs *they* or *them*.
- **Linking a pronoun to the wrong noun.** In B2, some children say *they* means Ava. Read it back with the noun swapped in: "Ava didn't hear" doesn't fit, because Ava did the calling.
- **Ringing names, or missing I and me.** Names like Mia are nouns. *I* and *me* are pronouns, even though they don't point back to a noun on the page.

Going further (5 minutes, no paper)

- **Bedtime spotting:** as you read a story together, take turns stopping at he, she, it or they and asking "Who or what does this mean?"
- **Pronoun I-spy:** say a sentence about something in the room using only a pronoun ("It is soft and blue"). Your child guesses what you mean.
- **In the game:** Chapter 2, Avoiding repetition, shows how to swap repeated nouns for pronouns.