Who do you mean? Answers and notes

What your child practised: noticing when a pronoun could mean two people or things, and choosing a noun instead to make writing clear (Year 4 grammar).

Page 1 · Warm up

1. **clear** (only Ava is *she*)
2. **unclear** (Leo or Sam?)
3. **unclear** (the dog or the cat?)

Page 2 · Try it together

Answers will vary. A clear sentence names who did it.

Page 2 · A. Who could it mean?

1. **Leo** · 2. **Ava or Grace**
3. **Dad or Uncle Tom** · 4. **Nana**

Page 3 · B. Make it clear

Either name is right, for example:
1. ***Sam*** *won.* · 2. ***Grace*** *used lots of blue.*
3. ***The cat*** *was very fast.*

Page 3 · C. Noun or pronoun?

1. **She** · 2. **Ava** · 3. **He** · 4. **Grandad**
In 3, *Leo* isn't wrong, but *He* is clear (his sister is *she*) and avoids a repeat.

Page 3 · D. A clear pronoun

Answers will vary, e.g. *Mia and Leo played chess.* ***He*** *won.*

Challenge: No. Pronouns stop repeats, but only when the reader can tell who they mean. If *he* or *she* could mean two people, the noun is better. And the first time someone appears, you need the noun anyway.

Watch out for

- **Using he or she when two people could be meant.** It feels clear to the writer. Ask: "Could I think it was the other person?"
- **Changing every pronoun back to a noun.** That brings the echo back. Only change the ones that are unclear.
- **Missing unclear *it*.** Two things or animals can be just as confusing as two people.

Going further (5 minutes, no paper)

- **Who caught it?** Say *"Grandad and Uncle Tom went fishing. He caught a fish."* Ask who caught it, then fix the sentence together.
- **Story listening:** when reading aloud, stop at a pronoun and ask, "Do we know who this is?"
- **In the game:** Chapter 4, Possessive pronouns, uses mine, yours, his, hers, ours and theirs to show who owns things.