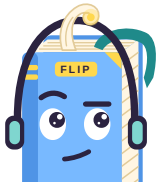
Name _____ Date _____

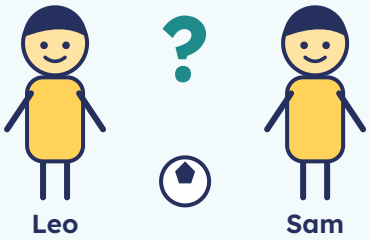
Who do you mean?

If a pronoun could mean two people, use the noun instead.

1 Learn



A pronoun only works if the reader knows who it means. If **he** or **she** could mean two people, put the **noun** back in.



Leo passed the ball to **Sam**, and **he** scored.

Who scored? Leo and Sam are both *he*, so we can't tell!

Leo passed the ball to **Sam**, and **Sam** scored.

Clear!

Worked example: *Mum and Gran baked bread. She burnt her finger.*

1. **Find the pronoun:** **She**.
2. **Who could it mean?** Mum and Gran are both *she*. We can't tell who got hurt.
3. **Put in the noun you mean:** *Mum and Gran baked bread.* ***Gran*** *burnt her finger.*

Flip's tip: a boy and a girl? **he** and **she** are usually clear. Two boys, two girls, or two things? Use the **noun** to show which one.

Warm up: is the pronoun clear? Write **clear** or **unclear**.

1. Ava and her brother went shopping. She bought a hat. _____
2. Leo and Sam had a race. He won. _____
3. The dog chased the cat round the garden. It was very fast. _____

Grown-ups: for each sentence, ask "Who does the pronoun mean?" If your child can give two answers, it's unclear.

Name _____ Date _____

2 Try it together a child and a grown-up, about 10 minutes



Who did it?

You need: three soft toys or figures, and a pencil.

1. Give the toys names. Make two of them both boys or both girls, and one different, such as *Ted*, *Bear* and *Bella*.
2. The grown-up acts out a tiny scene with two toys and says one sentence with a pronoun, such as: *"Ted and Bear played catch. He dropped the ball."*
3. The child asks **"Who?"** The grown-up shows who did it, and the child says the sentence again so it is clear: *"Bear dropped the ball."*
4. Try it with Bella and one of the boys. Is the pronoun clear now? Then swap jobs.

Unclear sentence	Clear sentence

Grown-ups: with Bella and Ted, *"She dropped the ball"* is clear, so the pronoun is fine. The skill is noticing when a pronoun could point two ways.

3 Practise

A. Who could the pronoun in the box mean? Write the name. If it could be two people, write both.

1. Mia and Leo made a sandcastle. **He** dug the moat. _____
2. Ava and Grace painted a picture. **She** used lots of blue. _____
3. Dad and Uncle Tom washed the car. **He** got very wet. _____
4. Grandad and Nana grow tomatoes. **She** waters them. _____

Name _____ Date _____

B. Rewrite the second sentence so it is clear. You choose who did it.

1. Leo and Sam had a race. **He** won.

_____

2. Ava and Grace painted a picture. **She** used lots of blue.

_____

3. The dog chased the cat round the garden. **It** was very fast.

_____

C. Noun or pronoun? Draw a ring round the choice that is clear **and** doesn't repeat.

1. Mia packed a picnic. **Mia** / **She** put in sandwiches and apples.
2. Ava and Grace had a picnic. **Ava** / **She** spilled the juice.
3. Leo and his sister went to the zoo. **Leo** / **He** liked the penguins best.
4. Dad and Grandad cooked dinner. **Grandad** / **He** burnt the potatoes.

D. Write a sentence about two people where a pronoun **would** be clear.

_____

Challenge

Leo says: *"Pronouns are always better than nouns, because they stop repeats."* Do you agree? Explain why.

_____

_____

I can… Tick when you can.

- ☐ spot when he or she could mean two people
- ☐ put the noun back in to make it clear
- ☐ use a pronoun when it's clear who is meant