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Pronoun check-up

Good writers read their work back and fix the pronouns that go wrong.

1 Learn



When you finish writing, be an **editor**. Read it back and check every pronoun. Does it **match**? Does it **stay the same**? Is it **clear**?

1. Match

Does **he**, **she**, **it** or **they** fit the noun?

*Grandma put on ~~his~~ **her** coat.*

2. Same

Started with **I** or **we**? Keep it all the way through.

*I went to the park. ~~She~~ **I** fed the ducks.*

3. Clear

Could **he** or **she** mean two people? Use the name.

*Leo met Sam. ~~He~~ **Sam** was late.*

Worked example: *Grandma found her glasses. He put them on. Then Grandma read Grandma's letter.*

1. **Match?** **He** means Grandma, a woman, so it should be **She**.
2. **Repeats?** *Grandma read Grandma's letter* is an echo: **she read her letter**.
3. **Read it back:** *…She put them on. Then she read her letter.*

Flip's tip: read your writing **aloud**, slowly. Point at each pronoun and ask, "Who?" Your ears often catch what your eyes miss.

Warm up: draw a ring round the word that doesn't match. Write the right one.

1. Grandad is funny because she tells silly jokes. _____
2. My sisters were late because she missed the bus. _____
3. The cake looked lovely, but they tasted salty. _____

Grown-ups: let your child find the problem first. If stuck, read it aloud and pause on the word.

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



Editor's desk

You need: a pencil and a coloured pencil or crayon.

1. The child writes 3 or 4 sentences below about something they did this week with someone else (a person or a pet).
2. Read the sentences aloud together.
3. With the coloured pencil, draw a ring round every pronoun and an arrow back to the noun it means.
4. Do the three checks: **match**, **same**, **clear**. Look for echoes too. Fix anything that needs it.

_____

_____

_____

_____

☐ every pronoun matches ☐ I or we stays the same ☐ every pronoun is clear

☐ no echoes

Grown-ups: if there's nothing to fix, brilliant! Ask your child to change one name into a pronoun, or one pronoun into a name, and say which sounds better.

3 Practise

A. Draw a ring round the word that doesn't match. Write the right one.

1. Grandma put on his glasses and read the paper. _____
2. Leo is my brother. She is nine years old. _____
3. The puppies were tired, so it went to sleep. _____
4. My bag is heavy because he is full of books. _____

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B. Keep it the same! Rewrite the last sentence so the pronoun doesn't switch.

1. Mia wrote: *"My name is Mia. I love swimming. Every Saturday, she goes to the pool."*

_____

2. *"Our class went to the museum. We saw a dinosaur skeleton. Then they had lunch in the park."*

_____

C. Edit this story. Cross out and write your fixes above. There are **3 things** to fix: one echo, one pronoun that doesn't match, and one that is unclear.

[1] Leo and his dad went to the beach. [2] Leo built a sandcastle, and Leo put a flag on top. [3] Then a big wave knocked the sandcastle down. [4] Dad laughed, and then she helped Leo build a new one. [5] Leo and Dad were tired after that, so he had a nap.

Challenge

Sam changed every name in his story to a pronoun. *"Now there are no repeats!"* he said. Is his story better now? Explain.

_____

_____

I can… Tick when you can.

- ☐ check that every pronoun matches its noun
- ☐ keep I or we the same all the way through
- ☐ fix pronouns that repeat or are unclear