

Name _____

Pronouns and Antecedents

A **pronoun** takes the place of a noun or nouns. An **antecedent**, or referent, is the noun or nouns to which the pronoun refers. A pronoun and its antecedent must agree in number and gender.

Before you use a pronoun, ask yourself whether the antecedent is singular or plural. If the antecedent is singular, decide whether it is masculine, feminine, or neuter. Then choose a pronoun that agrees. In the following sentences, the antecedents are underlined once; the pronouns are underlined twice.

Charlie participates in tennis and track for exercise. They keep him in shape.

Directions Circle the correct pronoun or pronouns in () to complete each sentence. The antecedent of each pronoun is underlined to help you.

1. Will loves tennis because (it, he) takes strength and speed.
2. Iris practices figure skating, and (they, she) is good at it.
3. The twins play baseball, but bowling interests (them, they) too.
4. Exercise makes people feel good because (it, they) keeps (she, them) fit.
5. José lost strength when (he, him) broke his leg.
6. The physical therapist showed José exercises that helped (he, him).

Directions Underline the antecedent once and the pronoun twice in each sentence.

7. An English doctor wrote about a disorder he observed in many children.
8. The children had stiff muscles, so moving was difficult for them.
9. As these children grew up, the condition did not grow worse, nor did it grow better.
10. Dr. William Little made the discovery, and he named the disorder Little's disease.
11. Several disorders are called cerebral palsy, and Little's disease is one of them.
12. A girl with cerebral palsy will have difficulty when she tries to move about.



Home Activity Your child learned about pronouns and antecedents. Read a magazine article together and have your child find pronouns that have antecedents and identify both.

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Directions Write a sentence or a pair of sentences using the noun or noun phrase and pronoun. Use each noun as an antecedent of each pronoun.

1. Kids with CP/they

2. exercise/it

3. strong muscles/them

4. physical therapist/he

5. girl with CP/her

Directions Write a paragraph about someone who works hard to overcome a physical handicap. Use at least four pronouns with their antecedents. Underline the antecedent for each pronoun.



Home Activity Your child learned how to use pronouns and antecedents in writing. With your child, write a paragraph about a hard worker you admire. Have your child point out pronouns and underline their antecedents.

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Directions Read the following paragraph. Mark the letter of the pronoun that correctly completes each sentence.

(1) Carlie is my newest cousin; ____ was born in June. (2) Mom, Dad, and I drove to the hospital so ____ could see her. (3) There were six babies in the nursery; ____ were all sleeping. (4) When a baby is born, ____ is checked carefully. (5) If there is any problem, doctors want to catch ____ right away. (6) For example, heart and lungs are checked to make sure ____ are functioning normally. (7) Carlie's doctor examined ____ and reported that everything is fine. (8) When my cousin Jimmy was born, ____ had a heart murmur. (9) Doctors operated on ____ and corrected the problem. (10) Parents always say that for ____, the main thing is having a happy, healthy baby.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. A she
B her
C they
D him | 6. A they
B it
C them
D we |
| 2. A he
B they
C us
D we | 7. A she
B her
C them
D they |
| 3. A them
B they
C she
D he | 8. A him
B he
C it
D them |
| 4. A him
B her
C it
D them | 9. A him
B he
C she
D her |
| 5. A they
B it
C she
D her | 10. A she
B he
C they
D them |



Home Activity Your child prepared for taking tests on pronouns and antecedents. Have your child rewrite a paragraph from a story, replacing each pronoun with its antecedent. Ask him or her to explain why pronouns make the story sound better.

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Directions Match the pronoun with the noun or noun phrase that could be its antecedent. Write the letter of the correct antecedent next to the pronoun.

- _____ 1. she A boys and girls
 _____ 2. them B Mr. Zimmerman
 _____ 3. it C Grandpa and I
 _____ 4. we D the prize
 _____ 5. he E Susan

Directions Circle the antecedent of the underlined pronoun in each sentence.

6. When muscles contract, they shorten.
 7. A voluntary muscle contracts when you want it to.
 8. Involuntary muscles are controlled by your brain. You do not tell them what to do.
 9. The heart is an involuntary muscle, so it works automatically.
 10. Leila explained how she slows her heart rate by relaxing.

Directions Write a pronoun to replace each underlined noun or noun phrase.

11. When people think of movement, people think of muscle power.

 12. A muscle is vital to moving the body, but a muscle is only part of the story.

 13. The bones are the other part. Bones move the body when muscles contract and pull on bones.

 14. Carole flexed her arm, and Carole felt her bicep muscle contract.

 15. Sean exclaimed, "Sean can see the muscles working in pairs! One contracts and the other relaxes."



Home Activity Your child reviewed pronouns and antecedents. Have your child dictate sentences about how he or she used muscles today. Ask your child to underline pronouns and circle any antecedents in the sentences.