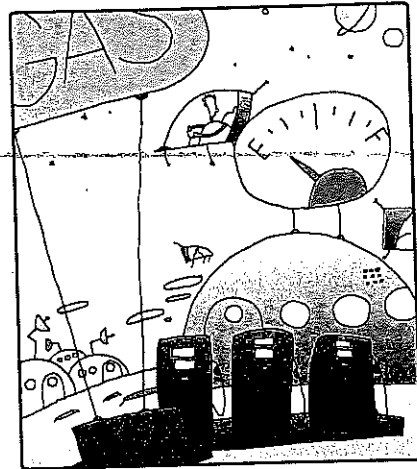


Pronouns and Antecedents

You always want to write so your readers clearly understand what it is you're trying to say. The writer of the following sentence obviously wasn't careful or clear in what he or she said. (Taken from *Anguished English* by Richard Lederer.)

About two years ago, a wart appeared on my left hand, which I wanted removed.



Make sure that the antecedent of a pronoun (the word the pronoun refers to) is always clear in your writing. (For more information, turn to 441.4 in *Write Source 2000*.)

EXAMPLES

Unclear Pronoun Use:

I took my car to the corner gas station because it was nearly empty.
(This sentence does not clearly state *what* was nearly empty—the car or the gas station—because the antecedent of the pronoun *it* is unclear.)

Clear Pronoun and Antecedent:

Because my car was nearly empty, I took it to the corner gas station.
(*Car* is definitely the antecedent of the pronoun *it* in this sentence.)

Directions

Rewrite each of the following sentences so that the pronoun has a clearly stated antecedent. Be sure to use the boldfaced pronoun in your new sentence. The first sentence has been done for you.

1. Reggie sat in the first row of the theater since **it** was empty.

Since the first row of the theater was empty, Reggie sat in it.

2. When I put my foot into the shoe, **it** was wet.
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3. When the ice floe reached the old dam, **it** broke.

4. After he'd left the present on the doorstep, Gerard realized **it** was the wrong one.

5. Though the chauffeur drove the limousine into the fence, **it** wasn't damaged.

6. I can't feed the hot dog to my dog because **it** is too old.

7. I don't go to movies with my young cousins because **they** are too violent.
(*they* becomes *them*)

8. Traffic, on the way to my aunt's dinner, **which** was terrible, made us late.



Next Step Turn to page 443 in *Write Source 2000* to find a chart of singular and plural personal pronouns. Study it carefully! Then close your book and see how many of the pronouns you can list. Check your list against the one in your handbook.