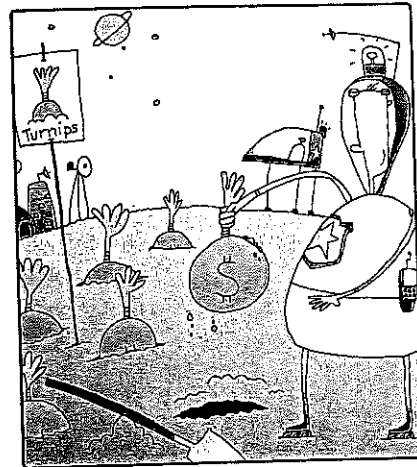


# Pronouns and Antecedents 1

A pronoun is used in place of a noun. The noun it refers to or replaces is called an **antecedent**. The antecedent usually comes before the pronoun. Pronouns must agree with their antecedents in number, person, and gender. When using pronouns, make sure that each pronoun-antecedent reference is clear, so readers are not confused. (Turn to page 90 and section 441.4 in *Write Source 2000* for more information.)



## EXAMPLES

**The detectives solved the case. They found the missing money.**  
(The plural pronoun *they* refers back to the plural antecedent *detectives*.)

*Unclear Pronoun Reference:*

**The detective cornered the thief. He ran quickly down the alley.**  
(Who ran, the detective or the thief?)

*Clear Pronoun Reference:*

**The detective cornered the thief, who ran quickly down the alley.**  
(Changing the pronoun *he* to *who* shows that the thief ran down the alley.)

## Directions

Write the antecedent for each underlined pronoun inside the parentheses following it. The first two sentences have been done for you.

- 1 Sam Slade and his ( Sam's ) partner, Millie Marlowe, were
- 2 in their office. It was a quiet morning, so they ( Sam and Millie ) started
- 3 cleaning up the place. Then the phone rang. Its ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) loud
- 4 ring startled the pair.
- 5 "I'll ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) get it," said Millie as she dashed to the phone
- 6 on her ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) desk. "It's for you ( \_\_\_\_\_ ), Sam."
- 7 Sam grabbed the phone and listened carefully for a few minutes.

8 He hung it ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) up and sat on the edge of his  
 9 ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) desk. “We ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) have a case!” he  
 10 exclaimed. “That was my ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) mom. Someone swiped the  
 11 chocolate chip cookies and her ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) special secret recipe, the  
 12 one she ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) used for the charity bake sale.”

13 The two detectives hopped on their ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) bikes.  
 14 “Let’s rock and roll,” yelled Sam.

15 “Race you ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) there. My ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) bike  
 16 is faster than yours,” replied Millie, and off they ( \_\_\_\_\_ )  
 17 zoomed.

18 Millie’s bike was faster, and she reached Sam’s house first.

19 Sam’s mom was waiting in the kitchen, and she ( \_\_\_\_\_ )  
 20 showed them ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) a trail of cookie crumbs.

21 It ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) led Sam and Millie to a closet door with a  
 22 chocolate-smearred handle.

23 They opened it ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) and looked inside.

24 There sat the two thieves—Sam’s brother, Sid, and Sid’s dog,  
 25 Sherlock—with their ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) faces stuffed with  
 26 chocolate chip cookies.

27 “I have you ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) now,” said Sam.



Next Step Write your own definition of an “antecedent” without looking up the answer.