

Pronouns and Antecedents

A **pronoun** is a word that is used in place of one or more nouns or pronouns.

The word that a pronoun stands for or refers to is called the **antecedent** of the pronoun. The pronoun may appear in the same sentence as its antecedent or in a nearby sentence.

EXAMPLE 1	The children gave themselves a big hand. [The antecedent of the pronoun <i>themselves</i> is <i>children</i> .]
EXAMPLE 2	Don and Carla finally solved the algebra problem . They had worked on it a long time. [The antecedents of the pronoun <i>They</i> are <i>Don</i> and <i>Carla</i> ; the antecedent of the pronoun <i>it</i> is <i>problem</i> .]

EXERCISE A Underline the pronouns in the following sentences. Then, draw an arrow from each pronoun to its antecedent.

Example	1. Kendra searched for <u>her</u> ring, but <u>she</u> never found <u>it</u> . 
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1. Cesar invited his friends to go camping with him.
2. Erica said she had prepared the whole meal herself.
3. Why are the baseball players wearing their caps backward?
4. Jody and Michelle gathered things for a time capsule and buried it in their backyard.
5. Loni wore her suede boots in the snow. Now they are probably stained.
6. Juanita lent Dominic her calculator. He had left his in his locker.
7. Brian and Marla play golf whenever they can. It is their favorite sport.
8. Ahmal hopes to compete in the next Olympic games. Where will they be held?
9. Did Carolyn sprain her ankle while she was skating?
10. Carlos and Ann decided they could not stay indoors on such a beautiful day.

EXERCISE B Above the underlined words and word groups in the following sentences, write the pronouns that can correctly replace the underlined words and word groups.

Example

1. To many people, Jim Abbott is a hero. ^{They} Many people have found Jim Abbott's ^{his} courage and determination inspiring.

11. Baseball requires various talents and skills; the sport also demands great strength and stamina.
12. Jim Abbott played professional baseball despite the fact that Jim Abbott has only a thumb and no fingers on Jim Abbott's right hand.
13. Jim Abbott's disability did not stop Jim Abbott from succeeding as a major league pitcher.
14. Ed thought Ed had a baseball card showing Jim Abbott in Jim Abbott's New York Yankees uniform.
15. Perhaps the baseball card is in one of these other boxes. Let's look through these other boxes.

Answer Keys:

Exercise A:

1. Cesar invited his friends to go camping with him.
2. Erica said she had prepared the whole meal herself.
3. Why are the baseball players wearing their caps backward?
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Exercise B:

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