

Name _____

Pronouns!!!

Here is a sentence to consider:

- The aliens returned to their mothership after they had captured several Earthlings, including Mrs. Scott and her family.


So now answer the following:

- What is a pronoun? Identify all of them in the sentences above.
- What is an antecedent? Identify all of them in the sentences above.
- What is the connection between a pronoun and an antecedent?

Watch out for Traps

●* Pronoun Antecedent Agreement/ Generic Nouns

Rule: Singular pronouns should be used to refer to singular antecedents. Plural pronouns should be used to refer to plural antecedents.

 **Warning!!** Writers are frequently tempted to use plural pronouns to refer to *singular generic nouns*. A singular generic noun represents a **typical single member** of a group, such as a typical student, a lawyer or a doctor. Although such generic nouns may seem to have a plural meaning, they are singular in form and they must be used with singular pronouns (usually *he or she*). If using a singular non-sexist pronoun sounds awkward, then try to make the antecedent plural.

Any runner must train rigorously if ~~they want~~ he or she wants to excel.

OR

Runners must train rigorously if they want to excel.

Correct any errors in pronoun antecedent agreement:

1. A medical student must study hard if they want to succeed.
2. An athlete usually has better control of their body than a non-athlete.
3. A good teacher will do their best to help their students.
4. A dog will recognize their owner's voice even after long periods of separation.
5. Any mother will protect their child instinctively.
6. A good student will usually work hard to keep up their grades.

For your reference: Here is a list of personal pronouns to help you recognize them: