

Name _____

Date _____

Identifying Vague Pronouns

A **pronoun** takes the place of a noun in a sentence. That noun is called an **antecedent**. A pronoun is **vague** if you can't tell what the antecedent should be. For example, the pronoun could refer to more than one possible noun in the sentence. To keep your writing clear, you should avoid using vague pronouns.

Example:

Emily uses vibrant **colors** to paint mountain **landscapes**, and **they** are beautiful.

The pronoun **they** is vague. It could refer to "colors" or "landscapes". Here are two ways to rewrite the sentence to avoid the vague pronoun:

Emily uses vibrant colors to paint mountain landscapes. Her paintings are beautiful.

OR

The vibrant colors in Emily's mountain landscape paintings are beautiful.



Directions: The following sentences each have a **vague pronoun** in bold. Circle the possible antecedents for each vague pronoun, and then rewrite the text to fix the error. There are multiple ways to correctly fix each sentence.

1. When you are done using the volleyball equipment in the gym, could you lock **it** up?

2. Olivia and her cousin Leah go to the same university, but **she** is graduating in May.

3. Aiden took his golden retriever, Max, to the park. **He** ran over to the empty bench as soon as they arrived.

4. The violinist removed his instrument from the case and placed **it** on the seat beside him.

5. After the neighbors give you their donations, can you bring **them** to the thrift store?

6. Planting certain herbs near vegetables can ensure that **they** aren't devoured by pests.

7. James gave Jackson a signed first edition of **his** favorite comic book.

8. Separate the yolks from the egg whites, and then place **them** in the mixing bowl.
