

Who or what are we reading about? SENTENCE COMPREHENSION

Tracking who's who in a sentence

To understand a sentence with a pronoun, students must first find the pronoun and then the word to which it refers, i.e., the pronoun's antecedent. Readers must understand pronouns and what they refer to in order to understand the meaning of a sentence.

FOR EXAMPLE...

'Sarah asked Mary to help her find the answer.'

Antecedent of her Sarah?
or
Mary?



WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Research indicates that understanding pronouns helps students with their reading comprehension and spoken language skills.



WHAT CAN TEACHERS DO?

TRACKING PRONOUNS

Have students identify the pronoun in a sentence. Then explain that the pronoun must match its antecedent in number (singular or plural), and the verb must agree with the pronoun.

'The **children** are playing with a dog and **they** see two cats running.'

TRACKING WHO'S WHO

Have students identify which antecedent a pronoun refers to, in a sentence containing two or more antecedents. Explain how to use the verb's agreement in number to find the correct antecedent.

'The **dog** barked at the **cats** because **they** ran away.'

TEACHING TIP

When teaching pronouns, start with personal pronouns (*she, it, they,...*) and then move on to relative pronouns (*who, whose, whom,...*).

Scan below for activities!



KEY TAKEAWAY

Teaching pronoun use is essential for understanding how sentences convey meaning and helps students become stronger readers and speakers.

GLOSSARY

Antecedent: A word or group of words that a pronoun refers to. The pronoun must agree with its antecedent in number (singular or plural), person (first, second, or third), and sometimes gender (masculine, feminine, neuter).

Pronouns: Words that replace nouns, they have many different forms and roles in sentences.

Personal pronouns: Pronouns that can be the subject (I, you, he, she, etc.) or object of the verb (me, you, him, her, etc.), they are the most common.

Relative pronouns: Pronouns that introduce extra information about a noun and links that information to the rest of the sentence (who, which, that, whose, where, etc.).

Sentence: A group of words that expresses a complete idea, usually including a subject and a verb. Sentences can take different forms and can be made of two or more simple sentences to express complex ideas.

