

Grade 6 Playlist: Shifts in Pronoun Numbers and Person

Aligns with *CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.6.1.C*:

- Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in pronoun number and person.

Welcome

There are many kinds of pronouns. Many pronoun errors happen when a writer shifts to an inappropriate pronoun midway through a sentence. This playlist will focus on intensive pronouns. Writers use intensive pronouns for emphasis. For example, consider the following sentence: *I myself did all the work*. Notice the emphasis?

Objective

In this playlist, students will learn and practice how to:

- recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in pronoun number and person.

Review

This chart lists all the pronouns covered in previous playlists.

		First Person	Second Person	Third Person	Interrogative
Subjective (Nominative) Case	<i>Singular</i>	I	you	he she it	who what which
	<i>Plural</i>	we	you	they	who what which
Objective Case	<i>Singular</i>	me	you	him her it	whom what which
	<i>Plural</i>	us	you	them	whom what which
Possessive Case	<i>Singular</i>	mine	yours	his hers its	whose
	<i>Plural</i>	ours	yours	theirs	whose
Reflexive/ Intensive	<i>Singular</i>	myself	yourself	himself herself itself oneself	N/A
	<i>Plural</i>	ourselves	yourselves	themselves	N/A



Key Terms

- A **pronoun** is a word that takes the place of a noun or another pronoun.

Pronouns can be classified by **number** and **person**:

- Number:
 - A **singular pronoun** refers to only one thing.
 - A **plural pronoun** refers to more than one thing.
- Person:
 - A **first-person pronoun** refers to the speaker or writer of a sentence.
 - A **second-person pronoun** refers to the person or people being addressed.
 - A **third-person pronoun** refers to people or things that are not speaking, writing, or being addressed.

Exploring the Standard

To use pronouns correctly and appropriately, follow these rules:

1. A pronoun and the word or phrase it replaces must match in number and person.

Incorrect:	If you begin as a child, most people can learn to speak a second language fairly quickly. By the time they grow up, I'm fluent.
Problem:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The sentence may be making a claim about people in general. In this case, the antecedent of each pronoun is most people: a third-person, plural noun phrase. However, neither you nor I (in I'm) is a third-person, plural pronoun. 2. Alternatively, the entire sentence may be intended to address one or more readers (you). In this case, only second-person pronouns are appropriate.
Solution 1:	If they begin as children, most people can learn to speak a second language fairly quickly. By the time they grow up, they're fluent.
Solution 2:	If you begin as a child, you can learn to speak a second language fairly quickly. By the time you grow up, you're fluent.



Teaching Notes: Shifts in Pronoun Numbers and Person

The goal of L.6.1.C is for students to understand correct pronoun shifts and be able to apply that knowledge to their own writing. The following information contains ideas that teachers can incorporate into their classrooms as well as additional resources to peruse and integrate into instruction as appropriate.

Activities

1. Choose a paragraph from a text that students are familiar with (such as a novel your class has been reading). Replace most of the nouns with pronouns. Some of the pronouns should be in the incorrect number or person. Ask students to work in pairs to correct the pronouns.
2. Direct students to write a paragraph including at least four pronouns. Have students share their responses and ask them to justify the pronouns they included.

Additional Resources

Consider these additional resources when teaching L.6.1.C:

“Using Pronouns Clearly”: This resource explains several rules regarding pronouns with examples.

- <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/595/01/>

“Lesson Ideas: Personal Pronouns”: This resource includes several lessons on pronouns.

- <http://educators.brainpop.com/bp-topic/personal-pronouns/>

“Pronoun Consistency”: This is a two-page resource with examples of correct and incorrect pronoun usage, focusing on shifts in pronouns. This resource is aimed at writers, but it has some strong examples.

- http://www.stlcc.edu/Student_Resources/Academic_Resources/Writing_Resources/Grammar_Handouts/pronoun-consistency.pdf

