

Teaching Notes

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



Self-Check: L.6.1.C

1. Read the following sentences, which have an inappropriate pronoun shift:

I am happy with my new school. You have a lot of freedom to choose your own classes.

Which of the following choices **best** corrects the pronoun shift?

- A. I am happy with my new school. There is a lot of freedom to choose your own classes.
- B. I am happy with my new school. I have a lot of freedom to choose my own classes.
- C. I am happy with my new school. We have a lot of freedom to choose our own classes.
- D. I am happy with my new school. It has a lot of freedom to choose its own classes.

Item ID	ELA_G6_MCQ_WN02610
DOK level	2
Answer Choice Rationale 1	The second pronoun in the second sentence inappropriately shifts from “my” to “your.”
Answer Choice Rationale 2	Key; The first sentence uses the first-person, singular pronouns “I” and “my.” The pronouns in the second sentence should keep the same person and number: “I” and “my” instead of “you” and “your,” which are second-person pronouns”
Answer Choice Rationale 3	The pronouns in the second sentence inappropriately shift from singular (“I” and “my”) to plural (“we” and “our”).
Answer Choice Rationale 4	The pronouns in the second sentence inappropriately shift from first person (“I” and “my”) to third person (“it” and “its”).

2. Read the following sentences, which have an inappropriate pronoun shift:

An ostrich is an unusual bird because it cannot fly. However, their powerful legs allow them to run very fast.

Which choice BEST corrects the pronoun shift?

- A. An ostrich is an unusual bird because it cannot fly. However, its powerful legs allow it to run very fast.
- B. An ostrich is an unusual bird because it cannot fly. However, his powerful legs allow them to run very fast.
- C. An ostrich is an unusual bird because it cannot fly. However, its powerful legs allow them to run very fast.
- D. An ostrich is an unusual bird because it cannot fly. However, his powerful legs allow him to run very fast.



Item ID	ELA_G6_MCQ_WN02611
DOK level	2
Answer Choice Rationale 1	Key; In the first sentence, “an ostrich” is third-person singular, so the pronoun “it” is used. The pronouns “its” and “it” should also be used in the second sentence to match the first sentence.
Answer Choice Rationale 2	The first sentence uses “it” to refer to the ostrich. The second sentence inappropriately uses “his” and “them.”
Answer Choice Rationale 3	The second sentence inappropriately shifts from “its” to “them.” “Its” is singular, and “them” is plural.
Answer Choice Rationale 4	The first sentence uses “it” to refer to the ostrich. The second sentence inappropriately uses “his” and “him.”

3. Read the following sentence:

My brother and I walk to school in the morning by myself.

Which sentence fixes the use of pronoun number and person?

- A. They walk to school in the morning by myself.
- B. They walk to school in the morning by himself.
- C. We walk to school in the morning by ourselves.
- D. We walk to school in the morning by themselves.

Item ID	ELA_G6_MCQ_WN02623
DOK level	2
Answer Choice Rationale 1	The pronoun “they” is plural, while the pronoun “myself” is singular.
Answer Choice Rationale 2	The pronoun “they” is plural, while the pronoun “himself” is singular.
Answer Choice Rationale 3	Key; This is correct because the subjective pronoun “we” is plural, and it goes together with the reflexive pronoun “ourselves” when the number of people is at least the speaker plus one more person.
Answer Choice Rationale 4	The pronouns “we” and “themselves” are both plural, but “themselves” is used to refer to a group that does not include the speaker.



4. Which of the following sentences uses pronouns correctly?
- A. We love watching the sunset, but they can take some time to happen.
 - B. The young birds were small, so its forceful cries provided a type of protection.
 - C. Every girl in the group must have a ticket, or she will be unable to see the play.
 - D. All the coaches forgot her keys, so they couldn't unlock the supply shed.

Item ID	ELA_G6_MCQ_WN02631
DOK level	2
Answer Choice Rationale 1	The sentence mentions one sunset. The pronoun that refers to the sunset, "they," should be singular, not plural.
Answer Choice Rationale 2	The sentence is describing more than one bird. The pronoun that refers to the birds, "its," should be plural, not singular.
Answer Choice Rationale 3	Key; "Every girl" refers to each girl in the group. Each girl is singular. Therefore, the pronoun, "she," must be singular.
Answer Choice Rationale 4	The sentence refers to more than one coach. Both pronouns that refer to the coaches, "her" and "they," should be plural, not singular.

