

Grade 6 Playlist: Vague Pronouns

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

- Recognize and correct vague pronouns (i.e., ones with unclear or ambiguous antecedents).

Welcome

There are many different kinds of pronoun, so it is easy to use pronouns incorrectly. This playlist will focus on vague pronouns. Writers also must be able to recognize vague pronouns and know how to clarify them.

Objective

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

- recognize and correct vague pronouns.

Review

Key Terms

- A **pronoun** is a word that takes the place of a noun or another pronoun.
- An **antecedent** is a word or phrase to which a pronoun refers.

Exploring the Standard

If used correctly, pronouns allow writers to simplify and add variety to their writing. However, they must balance these advantages with the need to write clearly. For example, read the following paragraph:

Cinderella worked long hours cleaning the house while Cinderella's stepmother and stepsisters relaxed. One day, the king announced the king was throwing a ball for the king's son. Every maiden in the kingdom was invited, but Cinderella's stepmother would not let Cinderella attend. On the night of the ball, Cinderella's fairy godmother gave Cinderella a magnificent coach and a beautiful gown and shoes. The coach, gown, and shoes allowed Cinderella to attend the ball, where the king's son fell in love with Cinderella. Cinderella and the king's son were married, and Cinderella and the king's son lived happily ever after.

This paragraph is wordy and repetitive. Replace each highlighted word or phrase with an appropriate pronoun. Complete this assignment on a separate sheet of paper; then, scroll to the next page of this playlist to see the revision.





Illustration by Charles Robinson, 1900

Cinderella worked long hours cleaning the house while they relaxed. One day, the king announced he was throwing a ball for him. Every maiden in the kingdom was invited, but she would not let her attend. On the night of the ball, she gave her a magnificent coach and a beautiful gown and shoes. They allowed her to attend the ball, where he fell in love with her. They were married, and they lived happily ever after.

The paragraph is now less wordy, but is it clear? Many of the added pronouns are vague.

Remember, an **antecedent** is a word or phrase to which a pronoun refers. Not every pronoun in a sentence requires an antecedent.

- For example: "You and I make a great team."
- Each pronoun in this sentence is clear by itself: *you* refers to the listener/reader, and *I* refers to the speaker/writer.

