

Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement

The **antecedent** is the noun or pronoun that a pronoun refers to or replaces. Pronouns must agree with their antecedents in number, person, and gender.

Number Use a singular pronoun to refer to a singular antecedent. Use a plural pronoun to refer to a plural antecedent.

Settlers moved to the American West and found that it was a huge and wild land.
When the settlers got together, they told stories with huge and wild heroes.

Person The **person** (first person, second person, third person) of a pronoun must be the same as the person of the antecedent. Avoid switching from one person to another in the same sentence or paragraph.

First Person We read tall tales that are a part of our American heritage.

Second Person You can make up your own tall tale.

Third Person The students shared their stories.

Gender The **gender** of a pronoun must be the same as the gender of its antecedent. Personal pronouns have three gender forms: masculine (*he, him, his*), feminine (*she, her, hers*), and neuter (*it, its*). Don't use only masculine or feminine pronouns when you mean to refer to both genders.

Marlene told her story to the class.

Haydon drew pictures to accompany his tall tale.

Each student had his or her favorite story.

Identifying Pronouns and Their Antecedents

In each sentence, underline the personal pronoun once and its antecedent twice.

- Some tall tales are about real people, but the stories about them are exaggerated.
- Other characters in tall tales are imaginary, but they are fascinating!
- For example, steel-drivin' man John Henry challenged a steam drill to a contest and beat it.
- Johnny Appleseed planted apple seeds with the hope they would sprout, grow, and provide fruit for new settlers.
- Everyone remembers Sweet Betsy from Pike and her travels across the wide prairie.
- Davy Crockett bragged that he was half horse, half alligator.
- Slaves, yearning for freedom, told stories of a time when they could fly.
- The stories about Mike Fink tell of his life as King of the Keelboatmen, the men who worked on cargo boats on the Mississippi River.
- Sally Ann Thunder Ann Whirlwind claimed she could defeat a grizzly bear and make a lasso out of six rattlesnakes.
- And who could forget giant lumberjack Paul Bunyan and his companion, Babe the Blue Ox?

**Lesson
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Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement *More Practice*

CHAPTER 3

A. Identifying Pronouns and Their Antecedents

In each sentence, draw an arrow to connect each pronoun to its antecedent.

1. Stories about Pecos Bill claim that he was America's greatest cowboy.
2. Old coyotes can remember when Bill was little and lived with them.
3. Bill tamed a wild mustang and named him Widow-Maker.
4. Some people say that Bill once caught a cyclone and rode it around the country.
5. Bill finally married. His bride's name was Slue-Foot Sue.
6. When Bill met Sue, she was riding a catfish as big as a whale.
7. Stories say that Bill died laughing when he tried to answer a city slicker's foolish questions about cowpunching.

B. Making Pronouns and Antecedents Agree

Write a pronoun that correctly completes each sentence. Then underline the antecedent of the pronoun.

1. A spotted coat helps the leopard hide from _____ prey.
2. Snow covered the ballpark earlier, but _____ melted.
3. Ken came by and picked up _____ baseball before supper.
4. Many artists build _____ studios in old warehouses.
5. Greta could help if _____ set the table for dinner.
6. Silicon is important because _____ is used to make computer chips.
7. Jay opened the envelope, and _____ found nothing in it.
8. The brothers wanted to buy a stereo, but it was too expensive for _____.
9. Manuel's friends love to ski; _____ go skiing often.
10. Paul lent Sandi _____ bicycle because hers was broken.