

# Pronouns

Using pronouns will reduce the repetition of nouns in your sentences.

“Abel slept for fourteen hours. When his eyes were opened, he was startled to find that he was not where he ought to be; that is, in bed with his wife, Amanda.”

from *Abel's Island* by William Steig

“If you take a bad boy and make him dig a hole every day in the hot sun, it will turn him into a good boy.”

from *Holes* by Louis Sachar

“As though Meg were a baby, Aunt Beast bathed and dressed her, and this new garment, though it was made of pale fur, was lighter than the lightest summer clothes on earth.”

from *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle

“Cletus looked at me and I looked at him, both of us hoping for the other one to do something.”

from *Missing May* by Cynthia Rylant

**A pronoun is a word that replaces one or more nouns.**

- ▲ The noun that a pronoun replaces is called an antecedent.  
*Sam lifted Sam's arm. → Sam lifted his arm.*
- ▲ A pronoun must agree in gender and number with its antecedent.  
✓ *Sam lifted his arm.*   X *Sam lifted their arm.*   X *Sam lifted her arm.*
- ▲ The following words are pronouns: *I, you, he, she, it, we, they, us, him, her, them, his, her, its, their, that, which, who, whom.*

## What is confusing about each sentence?

1. In the backyard, Anna told her helper, “We will remove the tree limb because they are dead.”
2. Anna looked at the chocolate chip cookie as she paid for the puppy food and thought how good it would taste.
3. When Anna wanted something, he got it.