

# vague pronouns

Pronouns need to refer back to a clear and specific noun.



They say eating pretzels makes you a genius.

Who is "they?"  
"They" doesn't refer to anything.

Well, Norm's brother said that he ate a bag before his math test.

Who is "he?"  
Norm, or his brother?

Norm. He didn't study and he got an A after eating pretzels. That made him happy.

What did? That he didn't study, or that he got an A?

I had a pretzel stuck in my throat once. It was scary.

"It" doesn't refer back to anything!!  
Get it right!!

The doctor took an x-ray to look for pretzels caught in my lungs, but he didn't find any.

"Get it right?"  
Now I'm doing it!!  
Augh! I did it again!

It is important to use pronouns effectively.

I mean, using pronouns effectively is important!

Rickert