

LESSON TWO: THE PRONOUN

A pronoun is a word that takes the place of a noun. We use pronouns to refer to persons, places, things, or ideas without having to rename them. For example:

My **uncle** likes the **roller coaster**. **It** doesn't scare **him**.

(The pronoun "it" takes the place of the noun "roller coaster")

(The pronoun "him" takes the place of the noun "uncle")

The noun that a pronoun replaces is called the **antecedent**. In the above sentence, the noun "uncle" is the antecedent to the pronoun "him," and the noun "roller coaster" is the antecedent to the pronoun "it."

Sometimes the antecedent is not stated in the sentence. For example:

Give **me** the book.

or

Has **anybody** seen a blue sweater?

EXERCISE EIGHT: Identify the antecedents of the pronouns in BOLD.

- _____ 1. Elsie planted the tomatoes so that she would have **them** for salads.
- _____ 2. Mr. Peters hired Jane because **he** knew that Jane was well qualified.
- _____ 3. Uncle Al bought two tickets for Jimmy and gave **them** to him for his birthday.
- _____ 4. The astronauts described how they opened **their** capsule.
- _____ 5. That story was so amazing that **it** will be told for years.
(TRICKY!)
- _____ 6. When **he** makes a long distance call, Jim speaks for only a few minutes. (TRICKY!)
- _____ 7. Will the treasurer give **her** report?
- _____ 8. As the steamboat rounded the bend, black smoke poured