verb

The rooster is (crowing)

subject

My friend (loves) dogs.

subject   verb   object

Pronouns

Do you know what a **pronoun** is?

See if you can identify which of these words are pronouns before the time runs out!

start

Nouns are words that identify people, places, things and ideas. **Pronouns** are words that we use in place of nouns. These are all common pronouns.

each other	My mine our ours
one another	your her his yours
	hers their theirs its

I	you	he	me
him	her	she	it
we	us	they	them

myself   himself
itself   herself
yourself
yourselves
themselves
ourselves

everyone/body/thing
someone/body/thing
anyone/body/thing
no one/body/thing

who   what
whom   whose
which

Write six sentences which contain at least one pronoun from each box.

Pronouns are useful devices that help us to avoid repetition.

Look at this sentence. What is wrong with it?

The sentence is overly long and full of repetition.

Replacing the nouns with pronouns makes the sentence shorter and easier to read.

Angela was annoyed with Angela's little brother because Angela's little brother had eaten all of Angela's favorite cereal.

What is ambiguity?

Pronouns can prevent your writing from sounding repetitive, but if you overuse them, you could confuse your reader.

This is because pronouns can sometimes cause **ambiguity**.

Ambiguity means to be unclear, so that the meaning of what you write can be interpreted in more than one way.

For example, look at the following description. Why do you think it might be ambiguous?

The crowd waved to the people in the parade. They looked like they were having fun.

The crowd waved to the people in the parade.
They looked like <u>they</u> were having fun.

This is ambiguous because it has two possible meanings. It could mean that that the crowd *watching* the parade looked like they were having fun, or it could mean that the people *in* the parade looked like they were having fun.

The problem is caused by the pronoun 'they'. It is not clear which noun this pronoun is referring to – the crowd, or the people in the parade.

Decide if each sentence is ambiguous or unambiguous.

The rock band played their hit song for the audience. They were excited and lively.

Ambiguous	Unambiguous

The following sentences are all ambiguous. Press on the pronouns that are causing the ambiguity, and then explain the two possible meanings of each sentence.

1. Simon's brother sent Katie a text saying that he really liked her.

2. Beth persuaded Charlotte to go into the shade because she was burning in the sun.

3. Jael and Misha watched the horror film with Jael's pet bulldog. It terrified Misha.

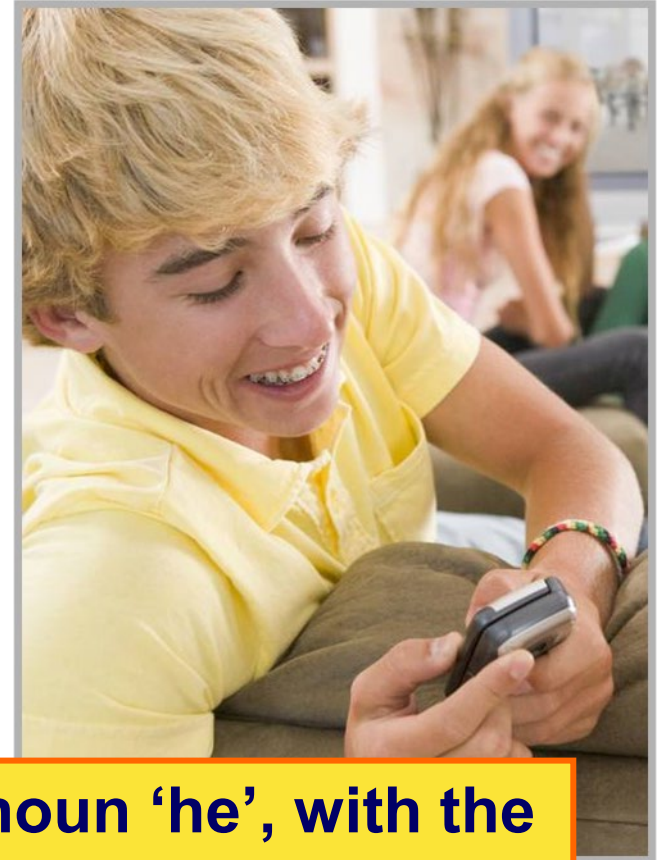4. Alejandro and Tom met their friends in the store where they worked.

Clarifying ambiguous sentences

How could the following sentence be rewritten so that it is not ambiguous?

Simon's brother sent Katie a text saying that he liked her.

This could be rewritten as:

Simon's brother sent Katie a text saying that Simon liked her.

Replacing the misleading pronoun 'he', with the proper noun 'Simon' explains that it is Simon, and not Simon's brother that likes Katie.

Clarifying ambiguous sentences

What about this sentence?

Beth persuaded Charlotte to go into the shade because she was burning in the sun.

This sentence could be changed to:

Charlotte was burning in the sun, so Beth persuaded her to go into the shade.

Rearranging the order of the words and making two shorter sentences makes it clear that Charlotte is the one who is burning in the sun, not Beth.

These sentences all contain ambiguous pronouns.
Decide on the meaning of each sentence and then rewrite it so that it is not ambiguous.

1. Jael and Misha watched the horror film with Jael's pet bulldog. It terrified Misha.

2. Alejandro and Tom met their friends in the store where they worked.

3. Paul hurtled down the slope after Sam. He was going very fast.

4. Medicines can be harmful to children; keep them locked away.

REMEMBER: when you use pronouns, ensure that it is clear which noun each pronoun is replacing!