

Pronouns and Antecedents

11h. A **pronoun** is a word used in place of one or more nouns or pronouns.

The word that a pronoun stands for is called its **antecedent**.

EXAMPLE Arlon wanted snapshots, but **he** did not have **his** camera handy. [The pronouns *he* and *his* refer to the antecedent *Arlon*.]

Sometimes a pronoun's antecedent is not stated.

EXAMPLE The teacher asked **everyone** to bring in art supplies for the project. [The pronoun *everyone* has no stated antecedent.]

EXERCISE For each of the following sentences, identify each pronoun and its antecedent. Underline every pronoun once and its antecedent twice. Some of the pronouns do not have stated antecedents. If a pronoun has no stated antecedent, write *NSA* above the pronoun.

Example 1. Parker brought her tap shoes to the party, but she did not dance.

- The gazelles came down to the stream, but they did not drink.
- Dean and Jim decided to pool their resources and buy a video camera.
- Debra set up an easel and a palette, and then she began to paint.
- Don't play the piano; it needs tuning.
- Are you going to the library?
- After seeing three more movies, Paula decided that she liked Harrison Ford after all.
- The crowd lifted their voices in song as the team took the field.
- Somebody answer the phone, please.
- Mariella posted a Stephen Crane poem on her Web site.
- George told Mary that he would love to see the film.
- On his trip to India, Steve Decker was attacked by a cow.
- Sandrine signed her name inside the book's front cover.
- No one knew who brought the banana bread to the potluck dinner.
- Carla called out, "The red bass guitar is mine!"
- The day Dave didn't use his sunblock, he got badly sunburned.
- "See that painting on the far wall? Jane knows the woman who painted it."
- As the cattle came through the gate, some headed for the barn, but most stayed in the yard.
- If that is the pen Randy wants, why doesn't Brad buy it?
- Steve invited us to his house to watch his favorite show on television.
- These are the flowers I was talking about; aren't they beautiful?