

Pronouns and Antecedents

A **pronoun** takes the place of a noun or nouns. An **antecedent**, or referent, is the noun or nouns to which the pronoun refers. A pronoun and its antecedent must agree in number and gender.

Before you use a pronoun, ask yourself whether the antecedent is singular or plural. If the antecedent is singular, decide whether it is masculine, feminine, or neuter. Then choose a pronoun that agrees. In the following sentences, the antecedents are underlined once; the pronouns are underlined twice.

When Emily exercises, she stretches muscles and tendons. They are tight and sore.

Directions Underline the antecedent once and the pronoun twice in each sentence.

1. Sam is happy because he can jump and run.
2. Because Janelle enjoys swimming, she swims on the YMCA team.
3. Janelle and Sam are lucky because they have healthy bodies.
4. Some children have cerebral palsy, and it causes problems with body movement and control.
5. These children need therapy to help them move freely.
6. Nolan uses a wheelchair, and a computer allows him to communicate.
7. The computer has an artificial voice, so it produces spoken words.
8. Megan remains cheerful although therapy can be painful for her.
9. Fred and I think that we will study medicine.
10. Doctors and scientists believe that they will be able to prevent cerebral palsy some day.

Directions Write a pronoun to replace each underlined noun or noun phrase.

11. Our class learned about muscles and bones when our class studied the human body.

we or it

12. Bones form the skeleton, and the skeleton supports the body.

it

13. Two bones meet at a joint, where the two bones are connected by ligaments.

they

14. Muscles have tendons that connect muscles to bones.

them