

**INSTRUCTOR:** "Pronoun Reference." In order for your sentences to have correct pronoun reference, pronouns must clearly refer to their antecedents-- that is, to the nouns that they replace. In the sentence, the travelers presented their identification, their clearly refers to the travelers.

If a pronoun could refer to more than one noun, the sentence should be revised. The sentence, Charlie bought Gavin his favorite book, is not clear. Was it Charlie's favorite book, or Gavin's favorite book? The sentence has to be revised.

The sentence now reads, Charlie bought his favorite book for Gavin. It's clear that it was Charlie's favorite book.

If a pronoun has no antecedent, the sentence should be revised. The sentence, after building a replacement, they will have the old stadium demolished, is not clear. Who are they? The sentence should be revised either by adding a clearer reference or by replacing the pronoun they with a noun.

The sentence now reads, after the owners finish building a replacement, they will have the old stadium demolished. They clearly refers to the owners.

If the pronoun you is used to refer to people in general, the sentence should be revised. This sentence reads, when traveling in remote areas, you should carry first aid supplies. If this sentence is directed at an audience intending to travel in remote areas, it is fine. But if it is a general statement about what travelers should do, the use of you is incorrect, and the sentence should be revised.

The sentence now reads, when traveling in remote areas, tourists should carry first aid supplies, which avoids the unclear use of you.

Remember, pronouns should always refer clearly to their antecedents-- otherwise, they can cause confusion. Avoiding problems in pronoun reference will make you a stronger writer.