

Clear and Ambiguous Reference

Year 8 · Writing · y8-eng-ambiguous-reference

Name: _____

Date: _____

Class: _____

Score: ____ / ____

Instructions

Answer every question. Write your answer on the line. 10 questions in total.

Practice

1. This sentence has an ambiguous pronoun — it's unclear who 'she' refers to. Fix it (Sarah was the nervous one): 'When Sarah met Amy, she was nervous.'

2. This sentence uses 'this' vaguely. Fix it by naming what 'this' means (the injury upset the fans, not the loss): 'The team lost the match and their star player got injured. This upset the fans.'

3. This sentence has an ambiguous pronoun. Fix it (John won the prize): 'John told his brother that he had won the prize.'

4. This sentence uses 'it' vaguely. Fix it by naming what 'it' means (the delay frustrated residents): 'The council delayed the new road and cancelled the bus route. It frustrated residents.'

5. This sentence has an ambiguous pronoun. Fix it (the dog was the one exhausted): 'The dog chased the cat until it was exhausted.'

6. This sentence uses 'which' vaguely — it's unclear what it refers to. Fix it by naming what 'which' means (arriving late annoyed the tutor): 'She arrived late and forgot her notes, which annoyed her tutor.'

7. This sentence has an ambiguous pronoun. Fix it (the parent seemed worried): 'When the teacher spoke to the parent, she seemed worried.'

8. This sentence uses 'this' vaguely. Fix it by naming what 'this' means (the drop in attendance concerned the owners): 'Ticket prices rose and fewer people attended games. This concerned the club's owners.'

9. This sentence has an ambiguous pronoun — it's unclear who 'he' refers to. Fix it (the coach was proud): 'When the player thanked the coach, he was proud of the performance.'

10. This sentence uses 'this' vaguely. Fix it by naming what 'this' means (the loud noise scared the cat): 'The fireworks went off loudly, and this scared the cat.'
