

NAME .....

**Lesson 11.11.6 Clear Pronoun Reference**

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**EXERCISE 1 Making Pronoun References Clear**

In each sentence, underline the pronoun whose reference is unclear. Then rewrite the sentence to make the reference clear. You may need to change the wording of some sentences for clarity.

**EXAMPLE** Merchants told city officials that they needed to ensure Chicago’s safety.

*Merchants told city officials that the officials needed to ensure Chicago’s safety.*

1. On October 8, 1871, a devastating fire started in Chicago, and they had trouble putting it out.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. There had not been much rain in the months leading up to that night, so it was extremely dry.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. The fire destroyed thousands of buildings and killed hundreds of people, which doesn’t even include the 100,000 people left homeless.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. The fire was so strong and destructive that you must have thought the whole world was burning.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Gary found a book and an article about the fire and took it home.

\_\_\_\_\_

Avoid using *it*, *they*, and *you* in a general way when a sentence has no clear antecedent.

**Example:**

*They* say the fire in Chicago caused \$200 million in damage. [What or who does *They* refer to?]

**Revision:**

*Historians* say the fire in Chicago caused \$200 million in damage.

**EXERCISE 2 Recognizing Unclear Pronoun References**

In each sentence, cross out the pronoun that lacks a clear antecedent. On the line, write the word or words to correct the unclear reference.

1. They thought the fire started in the barn of Patrick and Catherine O’Leary.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. The fire raged for two days until rain finally brought it relief.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Some people were crushed under their homes when they collapsed.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Luckily, the stockyards escaped the flames due to their location.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Thieves flocked to the city, knowing the fire had weakened its resources.

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