

Pronouns to Avoid Repetition

1. List the different personal pronouns used in the passage below.

What a day! I woke up this morning thinking it was going to be the same old day, but boy was I wrong! Miss Fairchild, the housekeeper, sent me out on an errand for her this afternoon. I love being sent out – it's great to see something other than the four walls of the scullery all day! Anyway, I was waiting patiently in the queue at the market, and a disturbed individual stood behind me muttering to himself. At first, I didn't pay much attention to him, but then I heard the word 'Queen'. Of course, quite a lot of people talk about the Queen, but this was different. He was mumbling something about the Queen, a gun, about soon he would be freeing the Irish. It was extremely unsettling. My stomach's all twisted in knots... what do I do? I know that I'm going to be tossing and turning all night with this weighing on my mind, and, as a scullery maid, I need all the sleep I can get.

VF

2. The relative pronoun 'that' has been used in the paragraph below. Tick the correct statement to show what 'that' refers to.

Haidi held her hands over the mouths of her two young sons, Harry and Gerald, trying desperately to stop them giving away their position. They had aged drastically since the start of the unrest, but she couldn't take any chances. From upstairs, she heard a low wooden groan from the floorboard that always creaked.

A. The young sons, Harry and Gerald.

B. The room upstairs.

C. The creaking floorboard.

VF

3. Underline the sentence which contains a relative clause in the paragraph below.

The sun looked down at Nathifa, moved by her purity of heart. And then he sent a single drop of sunlight towards the earth. Into this drop, the Sun poured all of his love, his warmth and his magic. The drop travelled faster than the speed of light, past the other planets, past Earth's moon, through the atmosphere, through the clouds, until it finally reached Nathifa, where it landed on her breast, just above her heart. Glowing, the drop of sun spread across Nathifa's body, turning her into a gold and yellow light source; too bright to be looked upon with the naked eye.

VF

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4. Richard is reading the passage below.

The additional passengers boarded the ship and were directed towards their accommodation. Those in first class made their way to elegantly decorated private suites with multiple bedrooms whilst those in second class made their way to their stylish cabins. The many passengers who were emigrating to America were directed towards the lower decks to the third-class cabins, home to up to ten people for the trip.

He says,



There are no relative clauses in the passage above. The author has only included personal and relative pronouns.

Is Richard correct? Explain your answer.

R

5. Using the personal and relative pronouns below, continue the paragraph ensuring that at least one of each type of pronoun is included.

they

me

her

that

who

she

you

which

when

him

The trees, which lined the busy street, stood to attention as the wind began to die down.
Jessica and Eli...

A

6. Add at least one relative clause into each of the paragraphs below and use a different relative pronoun in each.

It was a cold and frosty morning in the village of Appleton. Pulling back the curtains, Alex was blinded by the low winter sun creeping up over the hills. She could see the sparse trees glistening and swaying in the gentle breeze. They stood like soldiers, their arms poised and ready to welcome the warmth from the midday sun. Today was definitely a duvet day.

Climbing back into bed, Alex pulled the covers up tight around her face. She could feel the warmth of her breath trapped beneath the feather-filled duvet. Just a little longer she thought to herself. There was after all, no reason to get up yet. The alarm would wake her up again soon.

A

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1. I; it; me; her; him; he;
2. C
3. The drop travelled faster than the speed of light, past the other planets, past Earth's moon, through the atmosphere, through the clouds, until it finally reached Nathifa, where it landed on her breast, just above her heart;
4. Richard is incorrect. The relative pronoun 'who' has been used to indicate a relative clause. It is used to add additional information about 'the many passengers'.
5. Various answers, for example:

	The trees, which lined the busy street, stood
	to attention as the wind began to die down.
	Jessica and Eli, <u>who</u> had only just arrived in
	England, gazed with fondness at the pretty
	gardens next door to <u>them</u> . Never had <u>they</u>
	ever seen anything so magnificent.

6. Various answers, for example:

It was a cold and frosty morning in the village of Appleton. Pulling back the curtains, Alex, **who was still half asleep**, was blinded by the low winter sun creeping up over the hills. She could see the sparse trees glistening and swaying in the gentle breeze. They stood like soldiers, their arms poised and ready to welcome the warmth from the midday sun. Today was definitely a cold one.

Climbing back into bed, Alex pulled the covers up tight around her face. She could feel the warmth of her breath trapped beneath the feather-filled duvet. Just a little longer she thought to herself. There was after all, no reason to get up yet. The alarm, **which hadn't even sounded yet**, would wake her up again soon.