

Pronouns to Avoid Repetition – Fiction

She had seen him there so many times before. Nothing was different about the day she actually turned towards him rather than away. She just decided to say hello.

“Would you like anything from the shop?” she asked. There was a pause. Her mind, which always worried, began to race. Had she said something wrong? Was he upset? Why did she always mess up meeting new people? What was he...

The man grinned. “That would be so kind, thank you. Can I have a hot chocolate?” Anna was relieved. She felt her own smile appearing as she headed inside.

When she came back, the man told her his story. His name was Ismael, and he had left his homeland a year before. He told Anna stories of wading through rivers and riding on the backs of farm trucks. He spoke of his wife and children, whom he had left behind and hardly talked to since. They were living with his parents. They were safe and cared for, but he was living on the streets. He felt very alone.

1a. Look at paragraph 4. Write a list of all the personal pronouns in the paragraph. If a pronoun appears several times, only write it once.



VF

2a. In paragraph 4, who or what is referred to by the personal pronoun ‘they’?



VF

3a. Owen adds the following relative clause to this sentence from paragraph 3:

The man grinned, _____ relaxed Anna in an instant.

Should he use the relative pronoun ‘that’ or ‘which’?



VF

4a. Find and copy a relative clause in paragraph 2.



VF

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“... trying to steal the crown of our noble king, Halor the Great. Tying two guards together and hanging them out of a window...”

Ren nearly burst out laughing at that one. The High Council had read out a long list of his crimes, but that was the funniest. That poor pair of guards! Their eyes had gone so wide as they fell through the glass!

“... tackling a lady to the ground...”

‘Tackling’ was a bit much, Ren thought. He had been as careful as he could! The lady, who had been in front of a running horse, had been thankful for being pushed out of the way. As she should have been. The horse was coming to help Ren get away, but he did not think that was important.

The speaker kept reading. Ren fiddled with the iron ring around his neck. If he had not spent the night breaking its lock, it would have been a good way of keeping him trapped.

He stood up. “I hate to stop you talking,” he began. The room went silent. “Maybe you can add it to my list of crimes? ‘He shouted out while I was reading’. That could work. It’s just I’ve got places to be, you know?”

There was a click. The collar broke open and fell to the floor. Ren was free.

1b. Look at paragraph 2. Write a list of all the personal pronouns in the paragraph. If a pronoun appears several times, only write it once.



VF

2b. In paragraph 4, who or what is referred to by the personal pronoun ‘she’?



VF

3b. Sally adds the following relative clause to this sentence from paragraph 5:

The speaker, _____ enjoyed the sound of his own voice, kept reading.

Should she use the relative pronoun ‘who’ or ‘what’?



VF

4b. Find and copy a relative clause in paragraph 4.



VF

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She had seen him there so many times before. Nothing much was different about the day she actually turned towards him rather than away into the shop. She just finally decided to say hello.

“Would you like anything from the store?” she asked, trying to strike up a conversation. “I’m just heading in there.” There was a pause. Her mind, which was never very confident, began to race. Had she said something wrong without realising it? Was he offended? Oh, why were things always so awkward when she met new people? What was he...

The man beamed. “That would be so kind, thank you. They have a coffee machine in there. Can I have a hot chocolate?” Anna filled with relief. She felt her own smile appearing as she dipped inside to get the drink.

Over sips of steaming cocoa, the man told her his story. His name was Ismael, and he had fled from his homeland just over a year earlier. He told Anna stories of wading through marshes and catching rides on the backs of farm trucks. He spoke of his wife and children, whom he had been forced to leave behind and had barely talked to since. They were living with his parents. They were safe and cared for, but living out here on the streets, he was not. He felt very alone.

5a. Look at paragraph 4. Write a list of all the personal pronouns and a list of all the relative pronouns in the paragraph. If a pronoun appears several times, only write it once.



VF

6a. In paragraph 4, who or what is referred to by both the personal pronoun ‘they’ and the relative pronoun ‘whom’?



VF

7a. Sasha adds the following relative clause to this sentence from paragraph 3:

The man beamed, _____ relaxed Anna in an instant.

Should she use the relative pronoun ‘that’, ‘which’ or ‘what’?



VF

8a. Find and copy a relative clause in paragraph 2.



VF

Pronouns to Avoid Repetition – Fiction

“... attempting to steal the crown of our noble king, Halor the Great. Binding two members of the Royal Guard and hanging them out of a window...”

Ren nearly burst out laughing at that one. The High Council had read out quite an impressive list of his crimes so far, but that was the funniest. That unfortunate pair of guardsmen! Their eyes had gone so wide as they tumbled through the glass!

“... viciously tackling a lady of the king’s court to the ground...”

‘Viciously’ was a bit of an exaggeration, Ren thought. He had been as careful as he could! The lady, who had been standing in the path of a galloping horse, had seemed very thankful for being pushed to safety. As she should have been. The fact that the horse was arriving to help Ren escape was not that important, in his opinion.

The councillor droned on. Ren fiddled with the iron collar around his neck. If he had not spent the night carefully picking apart its lock, it would have been quite a good way of stopping what he was about to do.

He stood up. “I really hate to interrupt,” he began. The room fell into surprised silence. “Perhaps you can add it to your wonderful list? ‘He rudely interrupted me while I was reading out his crime’. That could work. It’s just I’ve got places to be, you know?”

There was a click. The collar broke open and clattered to the floor. Ren was free.

5b. Look at paragraph 2. Write a list of all the personal pronouns and a list of all the relative pronouns in the paragraph. If a pronoun appears several times, only write it once.



VF

6b. In paragraph 5, who or what is referred to by the personal pronoun ‘he’?



VF

7b. George adds the following relative clause to this sentence from paragraph 5:

The councillor, _____ enjoyed the sound of his own voice, droned on.

Should he use the relative pronoun ‘which’, ‘who’, or ‘what’?



VF

8b. Find and copy a relative clause in paragraph 4.



VF

Pronouns to Avoid Repetition – Fiction

She had seen him there so many times before, sitting quietly near the junction. There was nothing drastically different about the day she actually turned towards him rather than away into the shop. She just finally plucked up the courage to say hello.

“Would you like anything from the store?” she asked, trying her best to strike up a natural-feeling conversation. “I’m just heading in there.” There was a slight pause. Her mind, which was always prone to self-doubt, suddenly filled with anxious thoughts. Had she unwittingly said something wrong? Was he offended by the offer? Oh, why did things always so quickly turn awkward when she met new people? What was he...

A beaming smile flashed across the man’s face. “That would be so generous, thank you. They have a coffee machine in there and, if it’s not too much trouble, I would love a hot chocolate.” Anna was flooded with relief. The man’s good mood was infectious, and she felt a smile spreading its way across her own face as she dipped inside to get the drink.

Over satisfied sips of his steaming cocoa, the man recounted his story to Anna. His name was Ismael and he had fled from his native country just over a year previously, when the government had begun to imprison men like him. He left Anna wide-eyed with stories of avoiding soldiers by wading through marshes and catching rides on the backs of farm trucks. He spoke fondly but sadly of his wife and children, whom he had been forced to leave behind and had barely spoken to since. They were living with his parents, which was a comfort to him. He knew they were safe and cared for, but living out here on the streets of a foreign land, he was not. He felt very alone.

9a. Look at paragraph 4. Write a list of all the personal pronouns and a list of all the relative pronouns in the paragraph. If a pronoun appears several times, only write it once.



VF

10a. In paragraph 4, who or what is referred to by both the personal pronoun ‘they’ and the relative pronoun ‘whom’?



VF

11a. Terri adds the following relative clause to this sentence from paragraph 3:

A beaming smile flashed across the man’s face, _____ relaxed Anna instantly.

Which relative pronoun should he use to complete the sentence?



VF

12a. Find and copy a relative clause in paragraph 2.



VF

Pronouns to Avoid Repetition – Fiction

“... making a desperate, and ultimately unsuccessful, attempt to steal the crown jewels of our wise and noble king, Halor the Great. Assaulting and binding two members of the Royal Guard and recklessly dangling them out of a window...”

Ren had to fight to suppress his laughter after that particular charge. The High Council had read out quite a comprehensive list of his crimes over the previous half hour, but that one brought back the funniest memories by far. That unfortunate pair of guardsmen! Their expressions had been a picture as they tumbled through the glass!

“... viciously tackling a lady of the king’s court to the ground...”

‘Viciously’ was a bit of an exaggeration, Ren thought. He had been as careful as possible in the circumstances! The lady in question, who had foolishly wandered into the path of a galloping horse, had seemed very grateful for being hurled into the safety of a nearby dung heap. As she should have been. The fact that the horse would not have been there if Ren had not been using it to escape with King Halor’s jewels was being made far too much of, in Ren’s humble opinion.

The councillor droned on. Ren fidgeted distractedly with the iron collar around his neck. If he had not spent the night carefully picking apart its lock, it would have been quite an effective way of preventing what he was about to do.

He stood up. “I hate to interrupt proceedings,” he began. The room fell into astonished silence. “Perhaps you can add it to your wonderful list? ‘He rudely interrupted me as I recounted his crimes’. That could work. It’s just I’ve got places to be, you know?”

There was a click. The collar broke open and clattered to the floor. Ren was free.

9b. Look at paragraph 4. Write a list of all the personal pronouns and a list of all the relative pronouns in the paragraph. If a pronoun appears several times, only write it once.



VF

10b. In paragraph 4, who or what is referred to by both the personal pronoun ‘she’ and the relative pronoun ‘who’?



VF

11b. Sunil adds the following relative clause to this sentence from paragraph 5:

The councillor, _____ enjoyed the sound of his own voice, droned on.

Which relative pronoun should he use to complete the sentence?



VF

12b. Find and copy a relative clause in paragraph 4.



VF