



Pronouns should be used carefully so the reader is clear about which **nouns** they refer to.

Ben told James that **his** dog was missing.
Does this mean?

Ben has a dog.
Ben's dog is missing.
Ben tells James.

James has a dog.
James' dog is missing.
Ben tells James.



The meaning of the sentence is clear if we use **direct speech**.

Ben said, "James, **my** dog is missing."
Ben said, "James, **your** dog is missing."

Focus

Discuss what *two meanings* each sentence could have.

- 1 John does not want to play cards with his brother because he always wins.
- 2 The suitcase was on the plane but now it has gone.
- 3 Amy saw Shireen while she was shopping with her mother.
- 4 The twins were looking for their cats. Have you seen them?
- 5 Billy suggested to Owen that he coach the football team.

Practice

- A** Why are these sentences not confusing?
- 1 The man told the policeman that his car had been stolen.
 - 2 The teacher told Sally that her story was excellent.
 - 3 The doctor assured her patient that she was improving.
- B** Rewrite these sentences to make the meaning clear.
- 1 Kim told her mother there was a hole in her jumper.
 - 2 Tim visited Fred on his birthday.
 - 3 Take the radio off the shelf and fix it.



Extension

By **reordering** the words in a sentence, we can make the meaning **clear**.

As I was getting my purse out of my bag, I dropped it.

Did the person drop the **purse** or the **bag**?

I dropped my purse as I was taking it out of my bag.



Reorder the words in these sentences to make the meaning clear.

- 1 The teacher collected the books, looked at her students and put them on the desk.
- 2 We planted the plants in pots when they were tall enough.
- 3 Dad drove his car into the wall and damaged it.
- 4 Before he put the bird in the cage, he cleaned it.

You may need to add other words as well.

