

4. Pronoun Errors

Prerequisite

For a good understanding of *Pronoun Errors*, one should have already read:

- (a) Parts of speech (Especially section 2.1.2 *Pronoun*)

Let's revisit the *basic* definition of pronouns:

In a sentence, a pronoun *replaces* a noun. The *noun* that the pronoun *replaces* is called the *antecedent* of that pronoun.

This rather simplistic definition of pronoun has many implications, as depicted in Figure 18 below:

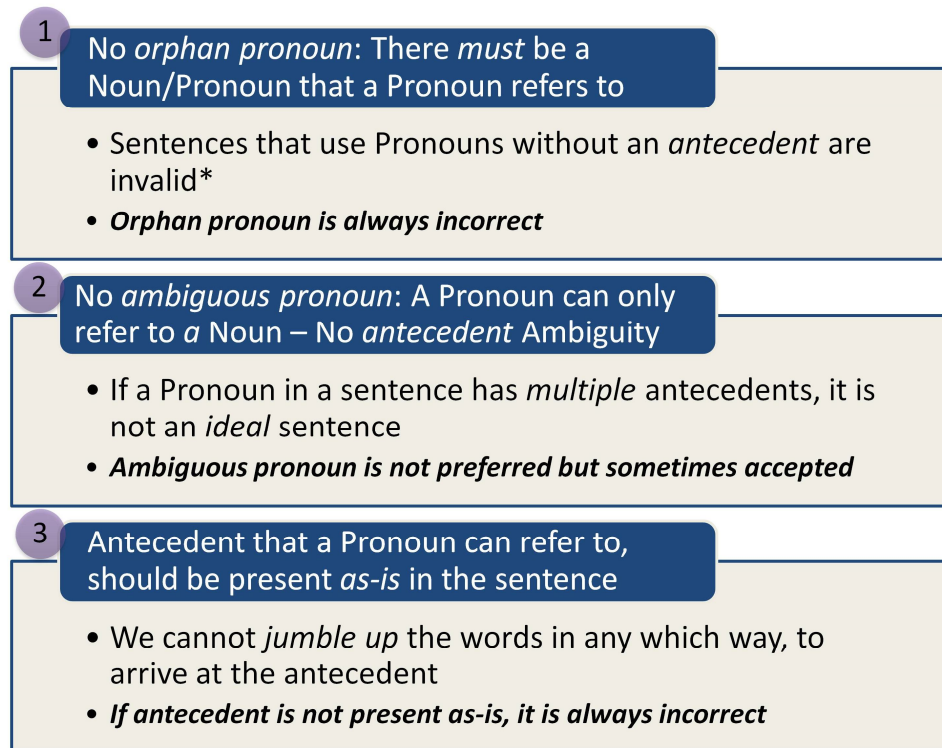


Figure 18: Implications of Pronoun usage

We explore each of the above in detail, in following sections:

1. Orphan Pronouns (section 4.2)
2. Ambiguous Pronouns (section 4.3)
3. The antecedent should be present as-is in the sentence (section 4.4)

Before we delve into these pronoun issues, let's first develop an understanding of what an *eligible antecedent* is.

4.1. What determines eligible antecedents of a pronoun

The *noun* that the pronoun *replaces* is called the *antecedent* of that pronoun. Before we go further into the details of the various pronoun errors tested on GMAT, let's first understand what determines an *eligible* antecedent of a pronoun.