

The Pronoun Reference Trap

Rising Grade 8 revising/editing mini-lesson

Parent note

Give this as a 5-minute check. The goal is to make the student identify exactly what the pronoun refers to.

Question

Read the sentence. Which revision makes the sentence clearest? Maya placed the notebook beside the folder before she packed it into her backpack.

- (A) Maya placed the notebook beside the folder before she packed the notebook into her backpack.
- (B) Maya placed the notebook beside the folder before she packed it into the backpack.
- (C) Maya placed the notebook beside the folder before it was packed into her backpack.
- (D) Maya placed it beside the folder before she packed the notebook into her backpack.

Answer and explanation

Correct answer: A

In the original sentence, it could refer to the notebook or the folder. Choice A repeats the notebook, so the reader knows exactly what Maya packed. In revising/editing questions, clear is better than merely short.

Next step

If this was hard, try the free SHSAT grammar sample. If you need a full ELA + Math baseline, use the \$1.99 diagnostic.

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