

## Pronouns and Antecedents

A **pronoun** takes the place of a noun or nouns. An **antecedent**, or referent, is the noun or nouns to which the pronoun refers. A pronoun and its antecedent must agree in number and gender.

Before you use a pronoun, ask yourself whether the antecedent is singular or plural. If the antecedent is singular, decide whether it is masculine, feminine, or neutral. Then choose a pronoun that agrees. In the following sentences, the antecedents are underlined once and the pronouns are underlined twice.

Victoria went with Jinx to practice square dancing. She helped her practice.

**Directions** Circle the correct pronoun or pronouns in ( ) to complete each sentence. The antecedent of each pronoun is underlined to help you.

1. The girl was nicknamed Jinx because (she, her) was clumsy.
2. The square dancers were very good, and (them, they) smiled for the camera.
3. The girl talks with the gym teacher and becomes friends with (him, he).
4. Victoria helped Jinx practice, but (she, they) broke her foot.
5. People can practice sports but may never be good at (they, them).
6. The girl kept a journal, and (it, they) tells of her experiences.

**Directions** Underline the antecedent once and the pronoun twice in each sentence.

7. Nate went to tryouts with the new football he had gotten.
8. Juwon could not play because a sore knee bothered him.
9. The sky grew cloudy, and it threatened rain.
10. When Mrs. Panizzi jogged by, Nate waved to her.
11. Nate made a great catch, and it impressed the coach.
12. The coach thanked his new players, and they shook hands.



# Directions

Read this story. Then answer questions 1 through 5.

## Mystery Flats

by Rosalyn Hart Finch

It was the hottest day of the year. Uncle Joe was wiping sweat off his face when he came into the house. “Ken, did you let the air out of two tires on my old truck?” he asked me.

“No, I would never do that,” I replied.

“I guess I must have run over some nails,” Uncle Joe said.

I helped him pump some air into the tires so we could drive to the garage.

The garage man couldn’t find any nails in the tires. “Maybe Ken, here, was playing a trick on you,” he told Uncle Joe, winking at me.

“I wouldn’t do that!” I said. “Flat tires aren’t funny.”

“Maybe some neighborhood kids?”

“There are only three who live nearby, and they’re on vacation,” Uncle Joe said. “It’s a mystery.”

The next morning was even hotter. Uncle Joe stormed into the house, shouting, “Now three of my tires are flat! Who could be pulling such a nasty trick?”

We went outside and pumped up the tires again. When Uncle Joe went back inside, I decided to solve this mystery myself. I hid behind a bush, keeping an eye on the truck. Maybe some kid who is visiting one of our neighbors is doing it, I thought. Or maybe a

grown-up is angry at Uncle Joe. But I couldn’t think of anyone who would be angry at Uncle Joe.

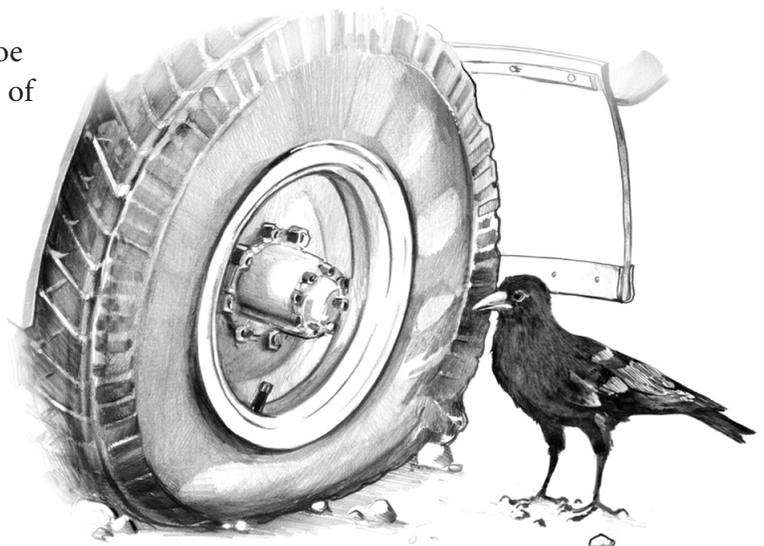
The sun got hotter and hotter. A fly buzzed around my head. I got sleepier and sleepier.

Suddenly I heard a *ssst, ssst* hissing sound. My eyes flew open, and I stared at the strangest sight I’d ever seen.

A crow was standing beside Uncle Joe’s back tire. With its sharp yellow beak it pressed against the tire valve. *Sssst!* I could almost hear the crow sigh with pleasure as it flapped its wings in the cool breeze hissing from the tire.

I felt like a real detective.

“Uncle Joe,” I shouted, running toward the house. “You’re never going to believe this . . .”



**1** Why is Uncle Joe upset?

- A** He does not like crows.
- B** It is too hot to work outside.
- C** The garage man could not fix the tires.
- D** He thinks someone is playing a trick on him.

**2** Which of these **best** describes the setting when the mystery is solved?

- A** inside an old truck on a summer day
- B** inside Ken's house on a warm evening
- C** outside Uncle Joe's house on a hot day
- D** at a garage on the hottest day of the year

**3** The crow lets the air out of the tires because it

- A** wants to cool off
- B** likes to flap its wings
- C** likes to make the tires flat
- D** wants to hear the hissing sound

***Go On***

**4** Read this quote from Uncle Joe after he discovers the three flat tires.

**“Who could be pulling such a nasty trick?”**

Which meaning of “nasty” is used in this sentence?

- A** dangerous
- B** disgusting
- C** mean
- D** painful

**5** If the story had continued, what would **most likely** have happened next?

- A** Ken would go to bed because he is so tired.
- B** Ken would take a shower because he is so hot.
- C** Ken would tell Uncle Joe how he has solved the mystery.
- D** Ken would ask the neighbors if they have seen any kids near the truck.

# Directions

Read this article. Then answer questions 6 through 10.

## 5 Steps to Safe Skating!

by Tulle Miller

In-line skating is a fun sport that everyone can enjoy. Follow these safety tips to keep skating safe and fun.

### Step 1: Gear up!

Even before you put on your skates, put on all your safety gear.

You will need:

- a helmet for your head (a bicycle helmet works great)
- knee pads
- elbow pads
- wrist guards

The wrist guards and the pads for your knees and elbows are covered with hard plastic. This means that the plastic gets scraped when you fall—not your skin!

### Step 2: Buckle up!

Strap on your skates. Make sure they fit well. Your skates should not be too tight for your feet. But they should fit snugly around your ankles. This helps your ankles stay strong and straight.



### Step 3: Fall down!

You probably do not usually try to fall. But it is good to practice falling on skates. Fall forward onto your knee pads. Put out your hands and let your wrist guards hit the ground. See? Are you surprised that it doesn't hurt? Practice falling until it is easy to fall forward and get up again. Knowing how to fall will help you be a better skater. If you are not afraid to fall, you will try new things. You won't be afraid to learn to turn or skate faster. Knowing how to fall will also help you find your balance. When you can stay balanced, you won't fall as much.



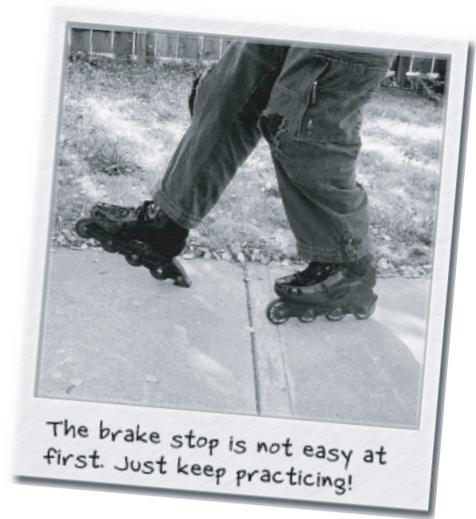
**Go On**

## Step 4: Stop!

Make sure you can stop on your skates. You don't want to roll into people or hit a tree! There are different ways to stop. The quickest and safest is probably the brake stop. On in-line skates, the brake is usually on the back of the right skate.

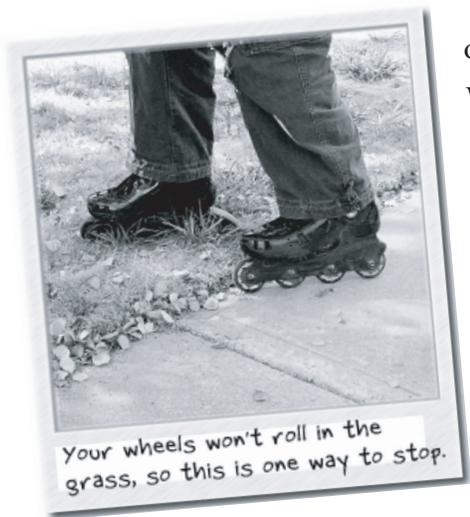
### The brake stop:

Roll forward with your skates pointing the same way. Let your right skate roll a little forward. Bend your knees as if you are sitting down. Then press your right heel down hard. This will make your brake pad drag on the ground until you stop. You might fall at first when you are learning to stop. It is not easy, but you will learn with practice. You must learn how to stop so you can be safe when you skate.



### The T stop:

Roll forward with your skates pointing the same way. Then turn your right foot out so the toes are pointing to your right. Drag your right skate. Let the wheels drag on the ground until you come to a stop. This is a little harder and takes more balance than the brake stop.



Another way to stop is to run or jump onto the grass. Your wheels won't roll in grass, so you will have to stop.

## Step 5: Roll around!

Find a flat, smooth place to practice. Do not skate in streets where there may be cars coming. Parks and playgrounds are good places to practice. Look for "No skating" signs to make sure you can skate there.



### Skate School

Taking a skating class might help you get rolling faster than learning on your own. You can look in the telephone book to find classes where you live. You might even be able to take a class at the skate shop.

**6** According to the article, which of these steps is **most** important for a new in-line skater?

- A** Learn to fall and stop safely.
- B** Find a class and skate fast.
- C** Relax and have fun.
- D** Buy expensive gear and skates.

**7** When you drag your right skate as you turn your right foot to the outside, it is called a

- A** brake stop
- B** drag stop
- C** T stop
- D** grass stop

**8** In the step **right after** “Buckle up!” you should practice

- A** how to skate fast
- B** how to brake
- C** how to fall safely
- D** how to put on gear

**9** In order to begin a brake stop, you should let your right skate roll forward, bend your knees, and

- A** turn your foot
- B** press your right heel down
- C** put your wrists out in front
- D** tighten your skates

**10** How is this article organized?

- A** It tells stories about skating.
- B** It gives descriptions of skates.
- C** It uses a question-and-answer format.
- D** It gives step-by-step instructions.

**Go On**