

Mechanics and Usage: Contractions—Pronoun and Verb

Read the poem. For each word choice in (), cross out the contraction or possessive pronoun that does not belong. Then rewrite the poem correctly.

Dancing Piggies

I know (your/you're) probably wondering, _____
"Just what makes piggies dance?" _____
(Its/It's)'cause (their/they're) so excited _____
When (they're/their) wearing satin pants, _____
And they squeeze (their/they're) little trotters _____
Tight into (their/they're) dancing shoes _____
And—(your/you're) not going to believe this, _____
Though (its/it's) absolutely true— _____
When they hear the sound of music _____
(Their/They're) beside themselves with glee, _____
So (its/it's) pretty much impossible _____
To stop (their/they're) little feet. _____
And (its/it's) not at all surprising _____
That (their/they're) on (their/they're) tippy toes _____
The minute (your/you're) not watching— _____
That is just the way it goes. _____



At Home: How does this poem make you feel? Explain your answer.

Common Errors: Pronouns

Add subject pronouns, object pronouns, or possessive pronouns to the following diary account.

Dear Diary:

Yesterday, _____ older brother, Howard, and _____ hiked all day in the Catskill Mountains. Unexpectedly that night, four inches of snow fell and covered the top of _____ tent. When we awoke, _____ were colder than _____ can imagine. A park ranger came and told _____ that we should head down the mountain. We told _____ that _____ would pack _____ gear and leave immediately.

I forgot my flashlight and one glove, so I rushed back to get _____. That's when I saw the grizzly bear staring right at _____. You would think it would be asleep in _____ cave, but there _____ was, standing in the same spot where Howard's and _____ tent had stood. Next to the bear was _____ flashlight and glove. "Those are _____," I whispered.

You can't imagine how scared _____ was. I froze in my tracks and waited for _____ to move. My brother's whistles, beckoning me, did no good. I had no way of telling _____ what was happening.

Finally, some snow fell off a tree branch and onto the bear. _____ was just the thing to startle the bear, and so it took off into the forest. When _____ told Howard and the ranger about my experience, I'm not sure they believed me. I bet _____ do, though, dear diary.

Vocabulary: Word Choice

- A. Rewrite the journal entry below. Replace the underlined adjectives and verbs with vivid adjectives and verbs that will make the scene come alive.

Saturday, October 10

It was a nice day. The warm sun was shining. We walked up the long trail. We went and sat under a tall tree. The wind blew the yellow leaves. Big white clouds went across the blue sky. We saw a big hawk. It flew over the trees. It looked pretty and nice.

- B. List a vivid verb or adjective for each word. Use a thesaurus if you need to.

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|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1. red _____ | 5. beautiful _____ |
| 2. babble _____ | 6. draw _____ |
| 3. grow _____ | 7. favorite _____ |
| 4. omit _____ | 8. pleasant _____ |