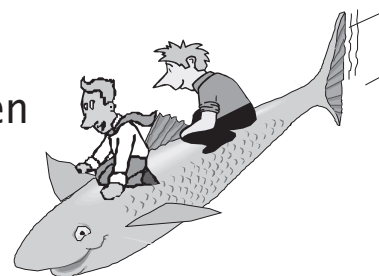## Noun or Pronoun (Not Both) As Subject

You and two friends look at the "flying fish" jumping in the river.

You write: Flying fish they are fun to watch.

Readers think: Your friends are fun to watch when they are flying fish!

You mean: Flying fish are fun to watch.

THE LOGIC

Using both a noun and a pronoun is misleading. Words can be misread as different parts of speech. The words *flying fish* are taken as modifiers for the pronoun *they*. (Some modifiers are given as a phrase followed by a comma: *Racing model cars*, *the kids get excited*. The kids get excited *while* they are racing model cars.)

THE RULE

Use the noun or the pronoun, not both, as subject.

Incorrect: Pandas they are cuddly.   Correct: Pandas are cuddly. They are cuddly.

PRACTICE

1. In each blank, write the number of the clue that matches the statement.

Clue 1: You are telling Bob something.

Clue 2: Bob has the snake.

Clue 3: [There is an unnecessary word!]

a. Bob, he has the boa constrictor. _____

b. Bob he has the boa constrictor. _____

c. Bob has the boa constrictor.   _____

2. Read the sentence below. In the blank, write the letter of the sentence that should follow it. Correct the other two sentences by crossing out one word in each.

I used my remote control. _____

a. The plane it flew fast.   c. The remote it flew the plane.

b. The plane it flew was fast.