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It, they and them

1 Tick the correct sentence in each pair.

- 1 a There have been big changes in the food we eat and the way we cook them.
b There have been big changes in the food we eat and the way we cook it.
- 2 a Such films are not suitable for children because they contain violence.
b Such films are not suitable for children because it contains violence.

It refers back to a singular or uncountable noun we have mentioned before:

*I've lost my umbrella, have you seen **it** anywhere?*

*Emergency **aid** can help in the short term, but **it** isn't the answer in the long term.*

*Each **school** has **its** own computer support officer.*

They refers back to a plural noun when the pronoun is the subject of a verb:

*Such **events** cost a lot of money, but **they** can also create jobs for local people.*

*Don't take these **painkillers** when driving as **they** may cause drowsiness.*

Them refers back to a plural noun when the pronoun is the object of a verb:

***Medical facilities** have to be located where people can make best use of **them**.*

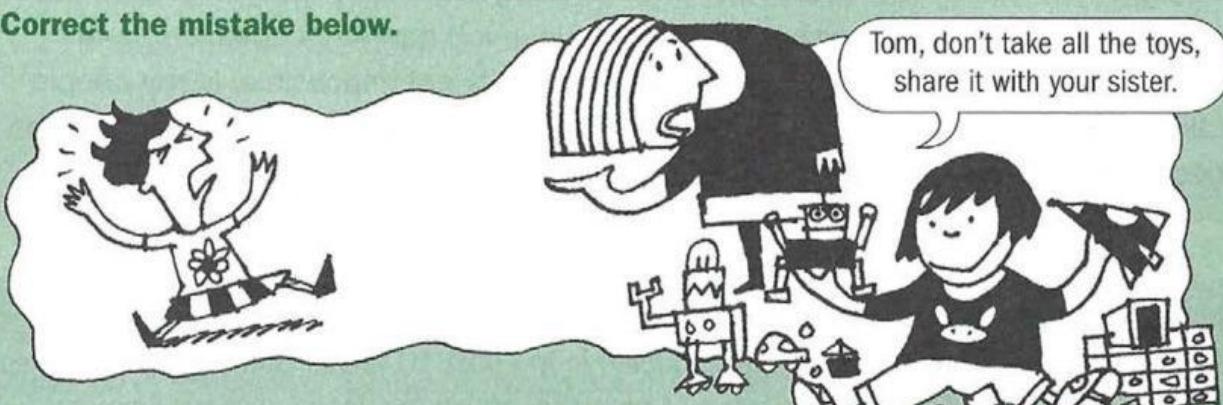
We use *their* before something which belongs to a plural noun:

*We help developing **countries** to manage **their** natural resources carefully.*

★ We usually only use *he/him* and *she/her* to refer to people and not to things:

*My car's quite old, but **it's** still fairly reliable. (not **she's**)*

2 Correct the mistake below.



Tom, don't take all the toys,

3 Complete the sentences with one pronoun in each space.

- 1 With a digital camera you can take photos and send to your friends.
- 2 I did all my homework and handed in on time.
- 3 The plane was forced to land when developed engine trouble.
- 4 You should take off your shoes and leave outside the temple.
- 5 If you drink too much coffee, can stop you sleeping.
- 6 Fifty years ago, most women didn't work, stayed at home with the children.
- 7 We need to crack down on illegal drugs and the people who sell
- 8 Such huge companies have a number of advantages over competitors.