21 *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.

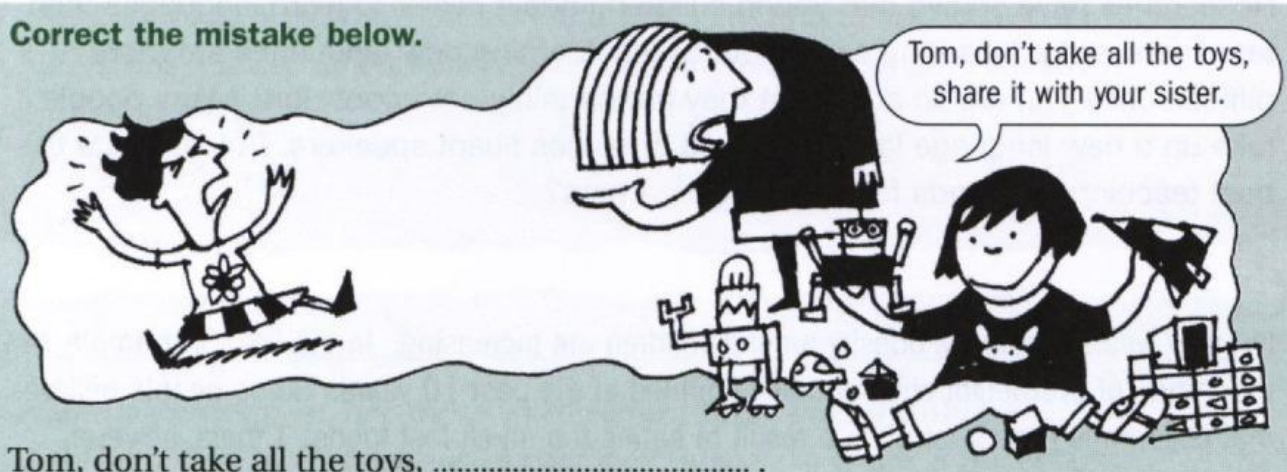
It refers back to a singular or uncountable noun we have mentioned before:
*I've lost **my umbrella**, have you seen **it** anywhere?*
*Emergency **aid** can help in the short term, but **it** isn't the answer in the long term.*
*Each **school** has **its** own computer support officer.*

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.

LIVEWORKSHEETS