The claim that resumptive pronouns (RPs) ameliorate island violations in English is widespread in the theoretical literature, but this intuition has not been substantiated by experimental work. We present a large-scale experiment on the acceptability of object RPs in English under several island conditions using auditory stimuli. In line with previous findings, we find no significant difference between participants’ ratings of island violations with gaps compared to those with resumptive pronouns (all p > 0.05). Furthermore, we find no evidence to suggest that English RPs facilitate sentence comprehension, as participants were as accurate with comprehension questions pertaining to sentences with RPs as they were with gaps and controls (all p > 0.05). We propose that resumptive pronouns do not fix derivational problems in English, but are used as a coherence tracking device by the speaker, for the speaker.