

REFERECE QUESTIONS IN READING COMPREHENSION

Every reading passage contains a reference question. These questions will be easily identifiable because the words that the authors want to a reference for will be in **BOLD** in the text and the question.

Look at this simple question:

- Tom exercises and eats well. The doctor does not understand why **he** is always ill.
- What does the word “**he**” refer to?

A. A doctor
B. Tom
- You should choose “B” because this is the reference or antecedent for the personal pronoun

References have to be agree in gender and numbers

- Tom exercises and eats well. The doctor does not understand why **she** is always ill.
- She does not agree with its antecedent TOM in gender because Tom is a man’s name.
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- Tom exercises and eats well. The doctor does not understand why **they** is always ill.
- “**They**” does not agree with its antecedent TOM in number because Tom is a singular noun.

The following types of words have antecedents:

1/ Personal pronouns:

HE	SHE	THEY	IT
HIM	HER	THEM	IT
HIS	HER	THEIR	ITS
HIMSESELF	HERSELF	THEMSELVES	ITSELF

2/ Demonstrative pronouns :

THIS	THESE
THAT	THOSE

3/ Relative pronouns :

who	whom	whose	which	that
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4/ Each / Every : Both require a singular antecedents:

5/ Indefinite pronouns : each, either, neither

every	one
some	body
any	thing
no	where

6/ Collective nouns : family , team , class , government...

7/ Conjunctions: either ..or / neither ...nor . not only ...but also ...

8/ pronouns: One / Ones , other(s) , another

Each of the previous words will have an antecedent. The antecedent will be a phrase or a clause

- A single word antecedent is fairly simple.
- What is a difference between a phrase and a clause.
- A phrase is a group of word that does not contain a subject doing a verb
“Crashing the car” is a phrase because we do not know :who is crashing the car”
- A clause is a group of words that has a subject doing a verb.
- “Bill has been playing tennis for two hours” is a clause because it has the subject “ Bill” performing the verb “play”
- Be aware that any of the sated words may have a word , a phrase or a clause as a reference.

Example 1:

- Researching the company you have an interview with is very important. **It** provides you with the company's background and helps you form questions and shows interest

What does "**It**" refer to?

- You should choose: "Researching the company you have an interview"

Example 2:

- Jim prefers that his college roommate does his chores on the weekend. It makes studying during the week easier because the house is clean

What does "**It**" refer to?

- You should choose: "that his college roommate does his chores on the weekend"

Example 3: Molly has not had much sleep lately. **She** hopes that the baby will sleep through the night. **This** will allow **her** to get some sleep and make tomorrow a better day.

- "She" refers to :.....
- "This" refers to :.....
- "Her" refers to :.....

Example 4:

- Miss Scott, **whose** car broke down, called a taxi.
- "**whose**" refers to:
- The assignment **that** Tom forgot to do was worth several points
- "**that**" refers to :.....

Notice with the relative pronouns the antecedent comes right before the pronouns. What noun is before "whose" ? What noun is before " that"

Unit 10 (Grade 12) : ENDANGERED SPECIES

For a long time the image most people had of a gorilla was a dangerous-looking animal with big, bared teeth. But researchers studying gorillas show a very different picture of mountain gorillas. The animals are peaceful, gentle, sociable, and mainly plant-eating creatures.

Gorillas live in family groups. A typical group is led by the biggest and strongest grown-up male gorilla. (1)**He** is called a silverback because the hair on a male's back turns from black to silvery grey as he grows up. A silverback's group usually includes one or two sub-adult males and a few females and (2)**their** young.

Mountain gorillas spend much of (3)**their** time eating. Their food includes a variety of plants, along with a few kinds of insects and worms. At night the animals make a nest to sleep in. Many lightweight gorillas nest in trees. The heavier (4)**ones** may nest in grasses on the ground. Babies sleep with (5)**their** mothers at night.

Life for mountain gorillas is not always peaceful. (6)**They** are endangered and threatened by civil wars in the smaller parts of Africa. Hunters kill (7)**them** for food. Their forests are cut down for farmland, fuel, and housing. But many scientists, forest rangers and other concerned people are working hard to protect mountain gorillas and

(8) **their** habitats.

1/ " he " refers to	5/ " their " refers to
2/ " their " refers to	6/ " they " refers to
3/ " their " refers to	7/ " them " refers to
4/ " ones " refers to	8/ " their " refers to

Unit 4 (Grade 11) : VOLUNTEER WORK

Spring School is an informal school. (1) **It** provides classes to advantaged children in HCM City. Around 30 street children live and study at the school and about 250 children with special difficulties from District 1 regularly attend classes.

The Organization for educational development co-operated with Spring School to set up English classes in 1998. Dance, theatre, singing and folk music classes were set up a year later. Children from these classes participate in fundraising performances. (2) **They** raise money to continue their English and Performance Arts classes.

Spring School requires volunteers to help organize (3) **their** fundraising dinner held annually in June. (4) **This** is an exciting night in (5) **which** children dance, sing and play music at one of the largest hotels in HCM City. (6) **They** also need foreign volunteers to contact sponsors and help to expand the school activities. Volunteers are required from February until July to help organize (7) **these** events.

(8) **It** is hoped that more schools like Spring School will soon be found in other cities in Vietnam.

1/ “ it ” refers to	5/ “ which ” refers to
2/ “ they ” refers to	6/ “ they ” refers to
3/ “ their ” refers to	7/ “ it ” refers to
4/ “ this ” refers to	8/ “ these ” refers to

EXAMPLES OF REFERENCE QUESTIONS

Example 1:

People who want to become university teachers need master's degrees. Getting a master's degree is a necessity, but if it is gained too early, there may be concerns that the candidate lacks the real-world experience to go with it. In fact, very few schools want to hire novices with little or no classroom experience and even if **they** are accepted, they are usually ill-paid. One wise solution to the issue is for future postgraduates to start working as teachers before going on to gain their master's degree.

(extracted from the first term exam 2016-2107)

Question 41. The word “**they**” in paragraph 3 refers to _____.

- A. postgraduates B. novices C. schools D. teachers

Example 2:

You can usually tell when your friends are happy or angry by the looks on their faces or by their actions. This is useful because reading their emotional expressions helps you to know how to respond to them. Emotions have **evolved** to help us respond to important situations and to convey our intentions to others. But does raising the eyebrows and rounding the mouth say the same thing in Minneapolis as **they** does in Madagascar? Much research on emotional expressions has centered on such questions.

(extracted from the first term exam 2016-2017)

Question 40: The word “**they**” in paragraph 1 refers to _____

- A. appropriate responses in particular situations B. raising eyebrows and rounding the mouth
C. our intentions to others D. research on emotional expressions

Example 3:

In many Asian cultures, for example, children are taught to control emotional responses - especially negative ones- while many American children are encouraged to express their feelings more openly. Another difference can be found when an American person understands a grin as a signal of joy while on a Japanese face, **it** may mean embarrassment.

(extracted from the first term exam 2016-2017)

Question 44: the word “**it**” in paragraph 2 refers to _____

- A. feeling B. difference C. a grin D. face

Example 4:

When **they** were asked what they thought was a fair division of labor, women with jobs felt that housework should be shared equally between male and female partners. Women who did not work outside the home were satisfied to perform 80% - the majority of the household work – if their husbands did **remainder**. Research has shown that, if levels increase beyond these percentages, women become unhappy and anxious, and feel they are unimportant.

(extracted from the second term exam 2016 -2017)

Question 2: The word “**they**” in paragraph 2 refers to _____

- A. men B. women C. jobs D. labour

Example 5:

The civil war **broke out** 6 years later. Immediately, Barton started war service by helping the soldiers with their needs. At the battle of Bull run, Clara Barton received permission from the government to take care of the sick and hurt. Barton did **this** with great empathy and kindness. She **acknowledged** each soldier as a person . her endurance and courage on the battlefield were admired by many. When the war ended in 1865 , she used 4 years of her life to assist the government in searching for soldiers who were missing during the war.

(extracted from the second term exam 2016-2017)

Question 33: The word "this" in paragraph 2 refers to _____

A. cooking for soldiers

B. receiving permission

C. **acknowledging each soldier as a person**

D. taking care of the sick and hurt

Example 6:

Although speech is the most advanced form of communication, there are many ways of communicating without using speech. Signals, signs, symbols, and gestures may be found in every known culture. The basic function of signal is to **impinge upon** the environment in such a way that **it** attracts attention, as, for example, the dots and dashes of a telegraph circuit. Coded to refer to speech, the **potential** for communication is very great.

(extracted from the first term exam 2017-2018)

Question 40. The word "it" in paragraph refers to _____.

A. way

B. environment

C. function

D. signal

Example 7:

Schooling, on the other hand, is a specific, formalized process, whose general pattern varies little from one setting to the next. Throughout a country, children arrive at school at approximately the same time, take assigned seats, are taught by an adult, use similar textbooks, do homework, take exams, and so on. The slices of reality that are to be learned, whether **they** are the alphabet or an understanding of the workings of government, have usually been limited by the boundaries of the subject being taught. **For example**, high school students know that they are not likely to find out in their classes the truth about political problems in their communities or what the newest filmmakers are experimenting with. There are definite conditions surrounding the formalized process of schooling.

(extracted from the first term exam 2017-2018)

Question 46. The word "they" in line 16 refers to _____.

A. slices of reality

B. similar textbooks

C. boundaries

D. seats

Example 8:

Parents may get another kind of help from the companies they work for. Many companies now let people with children work part-time. That way, parents can spend more time with their children. Some husbands may even stop working for a while to stay with the children. For these men there is a new word: **They** are called "househusband". In the United States more and more men are becoming househusband every year.

(extracted from the second term exam 2017-2018)

Question 20: The word " they" in paragraph 5 refers to _____

A. parents who work part-time
than mothers

B. children who spend more time with fathers

C. fathers who spend more time with their children
children

D. husbands who stop working to stay with the

Example 9:

For animals other than mammals, then, feeding is not intrinsic to parental care. Animals add it to their reproductive strategies to give them an **edge** in their lifelong quest for descendants. The most vulnerable moment in any animal's life is when it first finds itself completely on its own, when it must forage and fend for itself. Feeding postpones that moment until a young animal has grown to such a size that **it** is better able to cope.

(extracted from the second term exam 2017-2018)

Question 47: The word "it" in the last paragraph refers to _____

A. feeding

B. moment

C. young animal

D. size

Example 10 :

Different cultures follow their own special customs when a child's baby teeth fall out. In Korea, for example, they have the custom of throwing lost teeth up on the roof of a house. According to tradition, a magpie

will come and take the tooth. Later, the magpie will return with a new tooth for the child. In other Asian countries, such as Japan and Vietnam, children follow a similar tradition of throwing **their** lost teeth onto the roofs of houses.

(extracted from the actual test 2017 -2018)

When one door closes, another opens; but we often look so long
and so regretfully upon the closed door that we do not see the one
which has opened for us.”