



## Reading Skill: Making references

### Learn together!

Some questions test your ability to understand what the words (usually the pronouns) in the text refer to. There are three steps to answering such questions:

- 1** Read the question carefully. Find the word in question (e.g. 'these') in the text.
- 2** Read the sentences that come before and after the word to get some hints of who or what it refers to.
- 3** Replace the word in the text with the words in the options one by one, and then read the whole paragraph again. Choose the option that fits the context best.

### Give it a try!

**e.g.1** In line 14, the word '**We**' refers to \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. Mandy and Derek                       B. Mandy and Kiki  
 C. Kiki and Derek                          D. Mandy and Kelly

The word '**We**' in the text refers to **the speaker (i.e. Mandy) and one or more other people**. Read the two sentences that come **before** this pronoun. Mandy tells Kiki that she made a new friend named Kelly and she often talks to her during recess. So, the word '**We**' refers to Mandy and Kelly. The answer is option D.

**e.g.2** In line 16, the word '**it**' refers to \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. Kelly     B. playing the piano  
 C. recess      D. piano music

We use the pronoun '**it**' to refer to **an animal or a thing**. Option A is false because Kelly is a person. Read the **sentence with the word** carefully. Mandy says that she and Kelly often chat about **piano music** during recess. The words '**listening to**' that come before '**it**' can also give you some hints. By replacing '**it**' with the words in the options, you can find that only option D makes sense, so it is the correct answer.