



What is referencing?

- finding out what a pronoun is referring to

How to find a pronoun's referent?

- look for a relevant noun that agrees with the pronoun in number (e.g. both of them are plural)
- replace the pronoun with that noun to see if the resultant meaning is logical and clear

Let's have a closer look!

'Lantau Island' is the previous sentence's subject.

Lantau Island is the largest island in Hong Kong. It is famous for the bronze Big Buddha, which was once the world's biggest seated outdoor bronze Buddha statue. It is located in Ngong Ping, a highland in the Western part of the island. Visitors can take the bus or cable car to get there. Other than that, Lantau Island is also famous for a village dubbed the 'Venice of Hong Kong'—Tai O. It is a fishing village at the northwest of the island. Its glorious scenery of stilt houses and fishing boats on waterways makes it more than a village. With traditional Chinese food such as salted fish and shrimp paste that can be found there, Tai O is now a popular tourist spot on Lantau Island.

The Big Buddha is the only noun that 'It' may refer to.

'Tai O' is the only place 'It' and 'there' can refer to.

Read line 3. The word 'It' refers to _____ the bronze Big Buddha _____.

Let's practise!

The population of sharks has decreased rapidly in recent years. Scientists believe they will soon be extinct if the problem is left unchecked. Dr Susan McCain, a senior environmentalist, has been studying sharks for decades. She claims that, without fins, sharks cannot live long, which is why sharks die soon after their fins get removed. Fishermen tend to slice the fins off live sharks (rather than kill them on the spot) and throw them back to the ocean right afterwards. This is, in fact, much crueller than killing them right away, considering the severe pain they are forced to endure before death. Therefore, she calls for the immediate suspension of shark hunting and shark fin consumption. This may be the only way to save sharks from extinction.

Read line 5. The word 'them' refers to _____.

Read line 9. The word 'This' refers to _____.