

Referencing

Master the reading strategy!



What is referencing?

- finding out the antecedent that a pronoun (whether personal, like she/it; or demonstrative, like this/these) refers to

How to find a pronoun's antecedent?

- look for it in the previous sentence or in what comes before the pronoun in the same sentence

What should we pay attention to when looking for the antecedent?

- it is NOT necessarily a noun
- it can also be a gerund, a phrase, or a clause

Let's have a closer look!

Here 'this' refers to 'writing persuasive essays'.

Here 'it' refers to the stance in need of supporting examples.

Many students may have difficulty **writing persuasive essays**. They do not know how to persuade their readers effectively. Indeed, **this** is never an easy task. You need not only **a firm stance**, but also evidence and examples that support **it**. **Elaborating your ideas well** is always important. **It** helps readers understand the reasons behind your stance. **It** also makes your writing more convincing. To achieve **this**, you need to pay more attention to social issues and current events!

The first 'It' refers to the elaboration. The word 'also' suggests that the second 'It' is referring to the same action, since no other action has been mentioned.

Read line 5. The word 'It' refers to the act of elaborating ideas well.

Let's practise!

As we all know, drugs are harmful to the human body. However, there are still a lot of people in the world who have become drug addicts. Many teenagers, who crave peer acceptance during puberty, take drugs because of peer pressure. This is due to their urge to fit in with others. Easily influenced by one another, they fall prey to drug abuse. To stop the number of drug addicts from growing, the government should enact tougher legislation. **This** can also launch more anti-drug campaigns so that more people may be educated on the negative impacts of drugs.

Read line 3. The word 'This' refers to _____