



What is referencing?

- tracing a pronoun's or a general term's antecedent, i.e., what it stands for

What to note when tracing the antecedent:

- agreement in number and in meaning
- complex subjects and any linguistic unit functioning as a noun (e.g. to-infinitive, noun clause, gerund)
- the use of **metonymy**, a figure of speech in which a representative term is used to refer to a person, object or concept:

The White House (=the American president and his or her administration) released a report of the investigation.

She devoted her life to the service of **the Crown** (=the king or queen of the country).

The pen (=the written word) is mightier than **the sword** (=violence).

Let's have a closer look!

The colour purple has long been unofficially acknowledged to be the colour of royalty and nobility in North America and Western Europe. The explanation is often taken for granted that this is because of the colour's symbolic meanings. For example, it has been argued in the West that the unlikely combination of red and blue makes it a symbol of power. History, however, would not overlook how the commercial world has had a hand in shaping the value of the colour.

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In line 4, what does 'the West' refer to?

'The West' refers to North America and Western Europe.

Let's practise!

The story of the colour purple can be traced back to ancient Tyre, a city in today's Lebanon, some two thousand years ago. Since, back there, synthetic dyes were not yet available, purple dyes had to be extracted from a particular kind of sea snail. The extraction process was infamously difficult, which was why garments made with these dyes were unaffordable for almost everyone except the lords and nobles. Over time, the story behind the Tyrian hue's association with the upper class has largely been forgotten nowadays.

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In line 6, what does 'the Tyrian hue' refer to?

'The Tyrian hue' refers to the colour purple.

Purple's historical association with Tyre, the city where purple dyes were produced, is the origin of the metonymic adjective 'Tyrian', which means 'purplish'. Remind students that 'hue' means 'colour'.