



Referencing



What is referencing?

- words like *he*, *they* and *this* do not have meaning themselves; they refer to other parts of the text
- they may point back to other items in a text or—less commonly—point ahead to a later part of the text

What to note when identifying reference words in the text?

- when a language unit (usually a pronoun) stands in for another unit (usually a noun), the two units must agree in number and meaning
- a word (e.g. heart) or phrase can be used to refer to a particular concept (e.g. love), person or object

Let's look closer!

The trouble is, even though we have put up the 'keep off the grass' sign, people in the park still do not seem to care about the lawn. They still prefer to take shortcuts and walk on the grass. To make it worse, park wardens seem to find it acceptable for people to continue stepping on it. Putting up a sign now becomes pointless.

Read the sentences immediately before 'it'. Find a singular or an uncountable noun that matches the phrase *stepping on*.

DSE 2018 Part A Q9 Short answer

e.g. What does 'it' (line 3) refer to?

the lawn // the grass

Although basketball typically favours bigger and taller players, smaller players can also excel in this sport. In fact, being smaller can provide an advantage. Shorter players can have a quicker first step and be faster because it takes less time for nerve impulses to travel from the limbs to the brain. Also, dribbling is a very useful skill for them. They can break through defences easily and score points.

'Them' refers to a plural noun. Find out who benefits from *dribbling*.

DSE 2019 Part B1 Q40 Short answer

e.g. Who or what does 'them' (line 4) refer to?

small(er) / short(er) players

Let's practise!

Let's start fishing as a hobby

A fishing hook that is too deep or too shallow in the water makes it nearly impossible to catch a fish. A fishing rod with a float will help you know the approximate position of your hook. The best position for most hooks is when the float is standing upright on the water (The float is left standing for a

while before it swings violently). Fishing rods with floats are ideal for day fishing while those with fluorescently coated floats are better suited for night fishing.

5

DSE 2020 Part B1 Q23 Short answer

① What does 'it' (line 5) refer to? _____

For people who do not regularly exercise, they may feel some discomfort when they start stretching their bodies. The pain in the muscle will subside after a few hours, but it may be sore over the next few days.



DSE 2018 Part B1 Q30 Short answer

② What does 'it' (line 2) refer to? _____

At the end of clinical training, Elizabeth, a lung specialist, reminded all her students the importance of wearing masks and maintaining good hygiene.

'We have the responsibility to protect our patients and everyone who works in this hospital.'



DSE 2017 Part B1 Q43 Short answer

③ Who does 'we' (line 3) refer to? _____

Exam Booster

All hallways in the staff dormitory need to have proper lighting. Initially, the employer was unsure whether installing voice-activated lights could achieve this while also saving energy. Surprisingly, they use little electricity and are fairly bright. This not only saves him a lot of money but also provides convenience to workers. Without a doubt, this is a significant advancement in lighting technology that benefits both people and the environment.

5

DSE 2018 Part B1 Q41 Short answer

① Who or what does 'they' (line 2) refer to? _____

