



Referencing



What is referencing?

- the use of pronouns to refer to someone or something that has already been mentioned in the text

How to answer referencing questions?

- Check if the pronoun refers to a person (*he* or *she*) or a thing or idea (*it*).
- Check if the pronoun is singular (*her*, *that*, etc.) or plural (*them*, *these*, etc.).
- Read the sentences around the pronoun. Use the context to decide what is being referred to.

Let's look closer!

In the past, busking in public places was one of the main options for aspiring musicians to showcase their talent. However, in recent years, they have had an alternative option: online streaming. Musicians are paid every time a user listens to their songs, which is why **it** is fast becoming the major source of income for minor artists and superstars alike.

DSE 2022 Part A Q15 Short answer

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

online streaming platform

- The pronoun *it* is used to refer to a thing or an idea, so we can rule out *musicians* and *a user*.
- *It* is a singular pronoun.
- Based on the context, we can work out that *it* refers to *online streaming*, not *busking*.

As an agony uncle, I have recently received a letter from a middle-aged reader who says, 'I'm going for the role of a young boy in a stage play. My friends, however, believe that I am too old to land the role.' At first, I thought that **they** were right. But then I thought to myself, 'Who knows? He might be able to impress the director with his talent.' Therefore, I told him to go to the audition anyway.

DSE 2020 Part B2 Q47 Short answer

e.g. Who or what does 'they' (line 3) refer to?

the (middle-aged) reader's friends

- The pronoun *they* can refer to both things and people. We need to read further to find the answer.
- *They* is a plural pronoun, so we can rule out *the reader* or *the director*.
- Based on the context, *the reader's friends* is the answer.

Let's practise!

With people enjoying longer lives and the cost of living increasing, many elderly people are choosing to return to the workplace after retirement, even in the entertainment industry. Some employers, however, think that they are too old to adapt to the ever-changing work culture of showbiz. They fail to see that these people can share their decades of knowledge and experience with their younger colleagues. Therefore, they should be seen as valuable assets that can contribute to the success of the entertainment industry.

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DSE 2022 Part B1 Q37 Short answer

- 1 Who or what does 'they' (line 4) refer to?

Actor Chris Law, who co-founded the beauty shop Glowing Colour with his make-up artist a few years ago, is facing challenges as online beauty shops gain popularity.

'We used to serve 200 customers at Glowing Colour every day a few years ago. Now, there are only ten people walking in per day, if we're lucky,' Chris says.

DSE 2020 Part B1 Q39 Short answer

- 2 Who or what does 'we' (line 3) refer to?

Exam Booster

Below is a thrilling scene I watched in a theatre show.

BANG! A loud noise can be heard from outside the bus. Smoke and dust are rising from underneath the vehicle. Rosemary looks out of the bus window but she cannot see what has caused the noise and the smoke. Around her, stunned faces are looking around for the same thing.

DSE 2023 Part A Q13 Short answer

- 1 Whose faces are referred to when the author says 'stunned faces are looking around'?

Faces of _____