Contextual Reference

Reference Words/ Transitional Markers
This lesson will show you how to:

- Recognize and identify different types of contextual reference
- Read and connect the contextual reference to the word that it refers to
Read the passage and identify what each underlined word refers to:

A computer, like any other machine, is used because *it* does certain jobs better and more efficiently than humans. *It* can receive more information and process *it* faster than any human. The speed at which a computer works means *it* can replace weeks or even months of pencil-and-paper work. Therefore, computers are used when the time saved offsets *their* cost, *which* is one of the many reasons *they* are used so much in business industry, and research.
are words which substitute for other words (to avoid using the same word over and over).

They refer back to words that have been used. Also they may refer forward to ideas that will be stated.

A computer, like any other machine, is used because it does certain jobs better and more efficiently than humans.
Being able to recognize and identify contextual references will help you understand the passage you are reading.

You must pay attention to reference words when they occur in the text you are reading.

You can find the meaning of references by searching the text and using your common sense and knowledge of the text.
## Pronouns & Possessive Adjectives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject Pronouns</th>
<th>Object Pronouns</th>
<th>Possessive Adjectives</th>
<th>Possessive Pronouns</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>me</td>
<td>my</td>
<td>mine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>you</td>
<td>you</td>
<td>your</td>
<td>yours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We</td>
<td>us</td>
<td>our</td>
<td>ours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>they</td>
<td>them</td>
<td>their</td>
<td>theirs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He</td>
<td>him</td>
<td>his</td>
<td>his</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>she</td>
<td>her</td>
<td>her</td>
<td>hers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it</td>
<td>it</td>
<td>its</td>
<td>its</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Contextual References**

**Pronouns & Possessive Adjectives**

Be careful

- **Its ≠ it’s (it is)**

  - **Its** = possessive adjective.
  - **It’s** = The contraction of *it* + *is*. 
Animation is a component of multimedia; it is used in online video game as well as in moving banners displaying sports scores or stock prices.

Even though an optical fibre is as thin as hair, its signal carrying capacity is higher than copper wire.
As companies unify their networks and systems, they must merge new technologies and legacy systems.

their: companies

they: companies
Bill Gates knew that PCs would be big business and he imagined Microsoft playing a center role in this industry.
who or whom as interrogative pronouns

In questions, who is used to refer to the subject of a sentence.

Example

Who works on that computer?

Mike works on that computer.
who or whom as interrogative pronouns

In questions, whom is used to refer to the object of a verb or preposition. An object is the person, place or thing who is receiving the action of a sentence.

Example

**Whom** did you see?

I saw **Jennipher**.
**Relative Pronouns**

**Who** as relative pronoun

In a sentence, **who** is used to refer to the subject of a sentence.

**Examples**

- Joe is a guy **who** studies very hard.
- Agent Smith is the character **who** tries to kill Neo.
Joining two clauses with *who*:

**Example**

I know *the man*. He is my neighbor.

I know the man, *who* is my neighbor.
who as relative pronoun

In a sentence, *whom* is used to refer to the object of a verb or preposition. An **object** is the person receiving the action of a sentence.

**Example**

The woman to **whom** you have just spoken is my teacher. (you have just spoken to her.)
Relative Pronouns

**whom** as relative pronoun

In a sentence, **whom** is used to refer to the object of a verb or preposition. An **object** is the person receiving the action of a sentence.

**Examples**

- This is the man **whom** I told you about. (I told you about **him**.)
- *For Whom the Bell Tolls* is a book by Ernest Hemingway.
Relative Pronouns

Who or Whom?

When in doubt, try this **simple trick**: If you can replace the word with “he” or “she,” use *who*. If you can replace it with “him” or “her,” use *whom*.

Examples

- I cannot see *who* is in the classroom. (**He** is in the classroom.)
- To *whom* it may concern. (**To him**...
Which refers to things in formal English

Example

An operating system is a master control program which controls the functions of the computer system as a whole and the running of application programs.

‘which’ refers to: “master control program”. 
Relative Pronouns

That can only be used in restrictive clauses. It can also be substituted for who or which in informal English.

Example

Today, telecommunication is widespread and devices that assist the process, such as the television, radio and telephone, are common in many parts of the world.

‘that’ refers to ‘devices’.
Relative Pronouns

Who, Which or That?

That can be substituted for who or which in informal English.

Example

Written, Formal: William Kellogg was the man who lived in the late nineteenth century and had some weird ideas about raising children.

Conversational, Informal: William Kellogg was the man that lived in the late nineteenth century and had some weird ideas about raising children.
“Who” or “That” for pets?

Use the pronouns “it” and “that” for animals unless you know the animal’s sex or the animal has a name.

Example

The cat *that* was stuck in the tree peed on the firefighters.

Conversational, **Informal**: Fluffy, the cat *who* was stuck in the tree, peed on the firefighters.
A Game: clues for you

1. Give clues to an object or person as your colleagues tries to guess which object it is.
2. Let’s have two teams: each team take turns choosing an object (or person) in the room to give clues about. Each clue should start with:
   “This is something that / which…” or
   “This is someone who…”
A Game: clues for you

If the other team is able to guess the object after just one clue, they score three points.
If they need two clues to identify the object, they score two points. After three clues, they only score one point.
If they are unable to guess the object after three clues, they score zero.

Relative Pronouns = give extra information
The Matrix is a cyber-thriller which captures the audience's attention from the beginning. The movie, directed by the Wachowski brothers, has a storyline that combines action, science fiction, and special effects. The world is a virtual environment created by computers, where people are just slaves to AI machines which generate energy from human bodies.

Neo is a computer hacker that looks for an answer to the question 'What's the Matrix?' He discovers the truth when he meets the rebels Trinity and Morpheus. Trinity helps Neo and kills 'agents' who are really machines in human form. Morpheus shows Neo what the Matrix is—a reality beyond reality that controls human lives. The Matrix is protected by 'agents' led by Agent Smith, the character who tries to kill Neo.

Neo receives strong powers and becomes 'The One' who will liberate humankind from the evil artificial intelligence known as the Matrix. In the end, he kills Agent Smith and saves the humans, but.....does he really kill him? Find out in the next Matrix movie.
Contextual References

[Image: The Meatrix logo with a cow, pig, and chicken in a Matrix-style pose.]
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Contextual References

Relative Pronouns

give extra information

**Whose**: possessive meaning; usually used for people and animals.

**Example**

This is the car *whose* owner is over there.

‘*whose*’ is followed by a noun.

‘Congress passed the statute, *whose* purpose was to lower taxes.

‘Congress passed the statute, the purpose of *which* was to lower taxes.'
Contextual References

Relative Pronouns

Where: refers to places

Example

Natal is the city *where* I was born.

‘*where*’ refers to the city (Natal)’
There is a parking lot at the college. At the parking lot, I can park my car.

There is a parking lot where I can park my car.
Contextual References

Relative Pronouns

When: we use *when* as a conjunction meaning ‘at the time that’.

Example

1989 was the year *when* the Berlin wall came down.

‘*when*’ refers to ‘1989’ (the year)
Why: we often use the phrase ‘this is’ / ‘that’s why’ to give a reason.

Example

Frank and Ellen have three children now. They needed more space. That’s why they moved house.

‘that’s why’ refers to ‘the reason why they moved’. 
The table below sums up the use of relative pronouns:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Function in the sentence</th>
<th>Reference to People</th>
<th>Reference to Things / Concepts</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subject</td>
<td>who, that</td>
<td>which, that</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Object</td>
<td>(that, who, whom)*</td>
<td>(which, that)*</td>
<td>where</td>
<td>when</td>
<td>what/why</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possessive</td>
<td>whose</td>
<td>whose, of which</td>
<td></td>
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https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/grammar/relative_pronouns/index.html
Deleted Noun

to leave out the nouns which have already been mentioned.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>one</th>
<th>another</th>
<th>the other</th>
<th>others</th>
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<td>some</td>
<td>these</td>
<td>those</td>
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**Example**

There is no best answer to the question which online service is the best. Rating a particular online service over *another* is entirely subjective. Price is important to some people, while the number of files available for download is important to *others*.

another: ____________________________

Another online service

others:______________________________

other people
to leave out the nouns which have already been mentioned.

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Example

Most programs are user-friendly but **some** are very complicated.

some : _____________________________
to leave out the nouns which have already been mentioned.

one another the other others
some these those all

Example

DELPHIE’s Hobby Shop is an online service which has two special-interest areas: one on classic vehicles and one on new cars and technology.

one : ________________________________
Optical fibers give very clear telephone conversations which are free from signal interference because light signals from one fibre do not interfere with those of **others** in the same cable.

**those:** _____________________________

**other fibres:** _____________________________

**Deleted Noun**: to leave out the nouns which have already been mentioned.

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There are two technologies at work in a clipboard PC: **one** allows raw data to get into the computer and **the other** allows the computer to figure out what that data mean.

**one:** _____________________________

**the other:** _____________________________
use specific words that give specific meanings.

**Example**

Everybody uses computers for many different purposes. **These smart machines** make their lives easier and more pleasant.

‘**these smart machines**’ refers to **computers**
Telecommunications is the transmission of signals over a distance for the purpose of communication. In modern times, *this process* almost always involves the sending of electromagnetic waves by electronic transmitters but in early years it may have involved the use of smoke signals, drums or semaphore.

*‘this process’* refers to

The transmission of signals over a distance for the purpose of communication
begins a sentence with ‘that, it, this, or which’ to refer to the idea in the previous sentence

Example

Multimedia combines text with sound, video, animation and graphic.

This greatly enhances the interaction between user and machine.

‘this’ refers to

the fact that multimedia combines text with sound, video, animation and graphic’
When Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) was first introduced, the connection had to be made between PCs online at the same time. This is no longer necessary. ‘This’ refers to the connection had to be made between PCs online at the same time.
Contextual References

Pro-Clause

begins a sentence with ‘that, it, this, or which’ to refer to the idea in the previous sentence.

Technology has been developed increasingly, **which** makes our lives more convenient.

‘**which**’ refers to

Technology has been developed increasingly
In all cases, where two things are mentioned, **The former** refers to the *first* thing, and **The latter** refers to the second thing.
**Contextual References**

**Sequence of Two Items**

words that show the order of situations and events

| the former | the latter |

**Example**

Some students read slowly and know it; others read slowly and don’t know it. *The former* can be helped more easily than *the latter*.

*‘the former’* refers to ‘students who read slowly and know it’.

*‘the latter’* refers to ‘students who read slowly and don’t know’.
Contextual References

Sequence of Two Items

words that show the order of situations and events

| the former | the latter |

Where two things are mentioned, **The former** refers to the *first* thing, and **The latter** refers to the second thing.

**Example**

People of Asian or African heritage develop lactase deficiency more frequently. Around 90 per cent of the former and 75 percent of the latter.

- ‘**the former**’ refers to ‘people of Asian heritage’.
- ‘**the latter**’ refers to ‘people of African heritage’.
There is a struggle between "Web Services" and the "Semantic Web". *The former* was thought to be rooted in the W3C and academia, *the latter* in IBM-Microsoft-Sun and industry.

- ‘**the former**’ refers to ________________________________
- ‘**the latter**’ refers to ________________________________
Grammatical Subject & Object “it”

In the passage, the writer might use ‘it’ to refer to the subject or the object of a sentence.

Example

*It* is easy to install new programs.

to install new programs
Grammatical Subject & Object “it”

In the passage, the writer might use ‘it’ to refer to the subject or the object of a sentence.

Example

All computers do not use the same operating systems. Therefore, \textit{it} is important to assess the operating system used on a particular model before initial commitment because some software is only designed to run under the control of specific operating systems.
In the passage, the writer might use ‘it’ to refer to the subject or the object of a sentence.

*It* must be taken into account that printers vary in cost, speed, print quality and other factors such as noise or compatibility.