



Contextual Reference

Reference Words/ Transitional Markers



Contextual References



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Contextual References



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





Contextual References



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.



Contextual References

Contextual References

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



Contextual References



Contextual References

- 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.





Contextual References



Pronouns & Possessive Adjectives

Subject Pronouns	Object Pronouns	Possessive Adjectives	Possessive Pronouns
I	me	my	mine
you	you	your	yours
We	us	our	ours
they	them	their	theirs
He	him	his	his
she	her	her	hers
it	it	its	its

Contextual References



Pronouns & Possessive Adjectives

Be careful



Its \neq it's (it is)



Its = possessive adjective.
It's = The contraction of *it* + *is*.



Contextual References



Pronouns & Possessive Adjectives

Example



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.

Contextual References



Pronouns & Possessive Adjectives

Example

As companies unify their networks and systems, they must merge new technologies and legacy systems.

their :

companies

they:

companies



Contextual References



Pronouns & Possessive Adjectives

Example

Bill Gates knew that PCs would be big business and he imagined Microsoft playing a center role in this industry.

he :

Bill Gates



Contextual References



Relative Pronouns

give extra information

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 the that computer.



Contextual References



Relative Pronouns

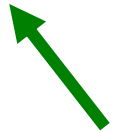
give extra information

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**.



Contextual References



Relative Pronouns

give extra information

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.

■ **Joe** studies very hard.

■ Agent Smith is the character **who** tries to kill Neo.



Contextual References



Relative Pronouns

give extra information

Joining two clauses with *who*:

Example

I know the man. He is my neighbor.

I know the man, *who* is my neighbor.





Contextual References



Relative Pronouns

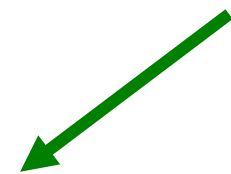
give extra information

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.

Example

preposition



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



Contextual References



Relative Pronouns

give extra information

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**.)

preposition

For **Whom** the Bell Tolls is a book by Ernest Hemingway.



Contextual References



Relative Pronouns

give extra information

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**...)



Contextual References



Relative Pronouns

give extra information

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'.



Contextual References



Relative Pronouns

= give extra information

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.





Contextual References



Relative Pronouns


= give extra information

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.





Contextual References



Relative Pronouns

= give extra information

“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.





Contextual References



Relative Pronouns

= give extra information

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...”



Contextual References



Relative Pronouns

= give extra information

A Game: clues for you

Example

■ 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.

Contextual References

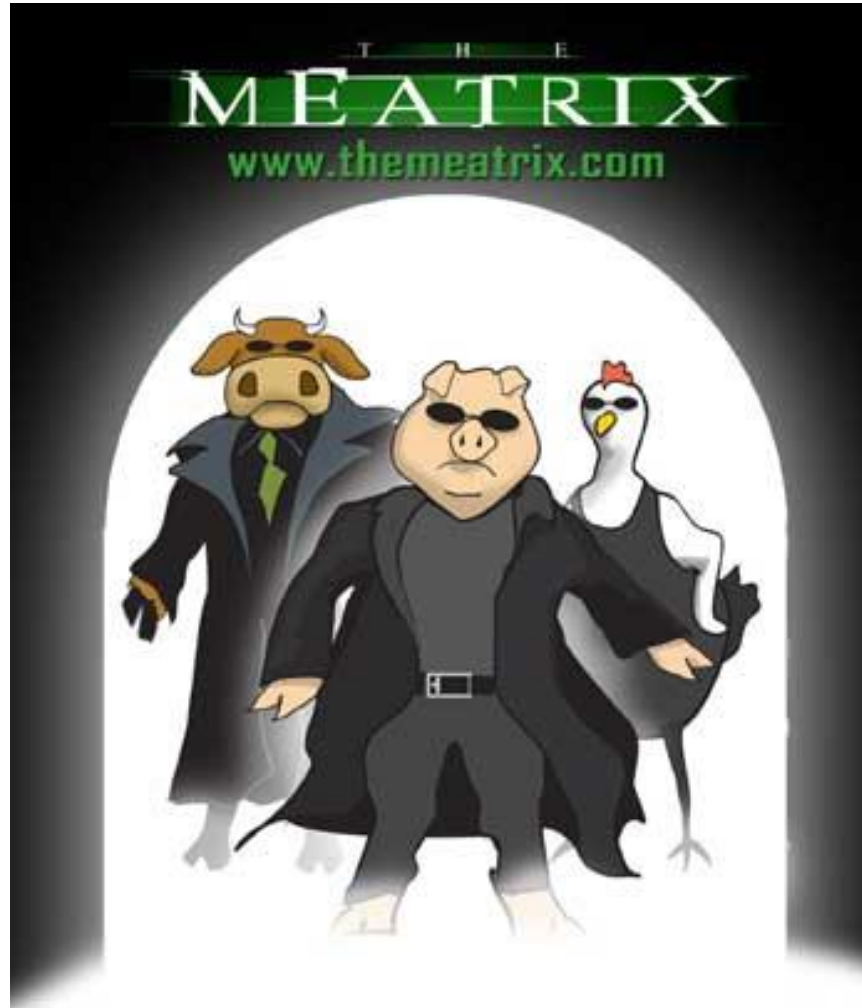


The Matrix is a cyber-thriller which captures the audience's attention from the beginning. The movie, directed by the Wachowski brothers, has a storyline that combines action, science fiction, and special effects. The world is a virtual environment created by computers, where people are just slaves to 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, butdoes he really kill him? Find out in the next Matrix movie.

Contextual References



Contextual References



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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

give extra information

Where: refers to places

Example

Natal is the city **where** I was born.

'where' refers to the city (Natal)



Contextual References



Relative Pronouns

give extra information

Joining two clauses with *where*:

Example

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

give extra information

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)



Contextual References



Relative Pronouns

give extra information

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'.





Contextual References



Relative Pronouns

give extra information

The table below sums up the use of relative pronouns

Function in the sentence	Reference to				
	People	Things / Concepts	Place	Time	Explanation
Subject	who, that	which, that			
Object	(that, who, whom)*	(which, that)*	where	when	what/why
Possessive	whose	whose, of which			

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/grammar/relative_pronouns/index.html

Contextual References

Deleted Noun

to leave out the nouns which have already been mentioned.

one
some

another
these

the other
those

others
all



Contextual References

Deleted Noun

to leave out the nouns which have already been mentioned.

one
some

another
these

the other
those

others
all

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**



Contextual References

Deleted Noun

to leave out the nouns which have already been mentioned.

one
some

another
these

the other
those

others
all

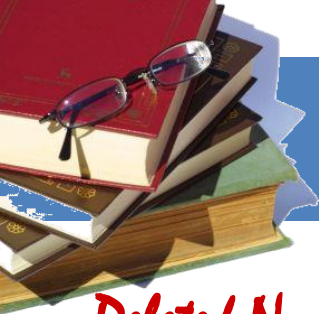
Example

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

some : some programs



Contextual References



Deleted Noun

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 : **one area**



Contextual References



Deleted Noun

to leave out the nouns which have already been mentioned.

one

another

the other

others

some

these

those

all

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 : those light signals

others: other fibres





Contextual References



Deleted Noun

to leave out the nouns which have already been mentioned.

one
some

another
these

the other
those

others
all

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 :

one technology

the other:

the other technology



Contextual References

Specific Words

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**



Contextual References

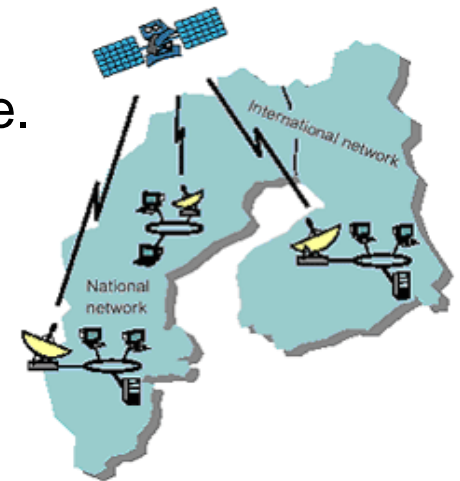
Specific Words

use specific words that give specific meanings.

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



Contextual References

Pro-Clause

begins a sentence with '**that, it, this, or which**' to refer to the idea in the previous sentence

Example

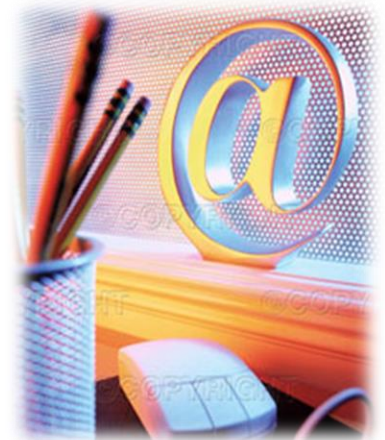
Multimedia combines text with sound, video, animation and graphic.

This greatly enhances the interaction between user and machine.



'**this**' refers to

the fact that multimedia combines text with sound, video, animation and graphic'



Contextual References



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

- 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



Contextual References

Sequence of Two Items

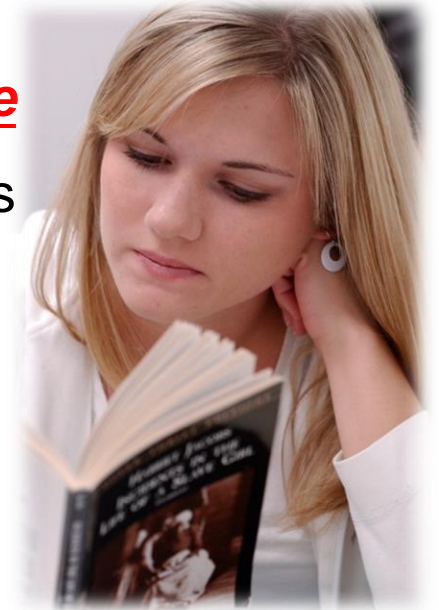
words that show the order of situations and events

the former

the latter

Example

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

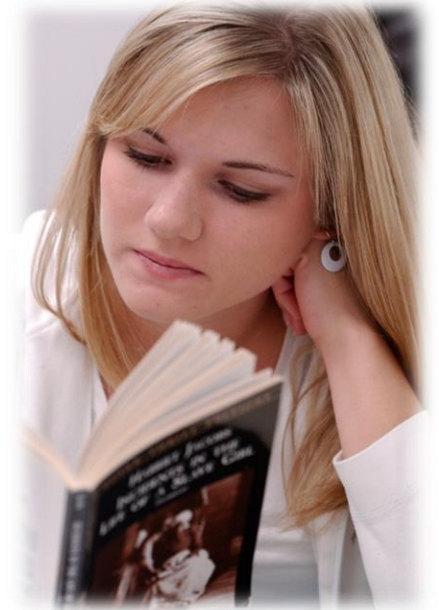
Example

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’.

Contextual References

Sequence of Two Items

words that show the order of situations and events

the former

the latter

Example

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

Web Services

the latter refers to

Semantic Web

Contextual References

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





Contextual References



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, *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.

Contextual References

Grammatical Subject & Object "it"

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.

