Chapter 2

Food

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READING

Reading Skill 2

Responding to Reference Questions

Homework and Paired Review
Read pages 64–67 for homework. Take notes, or highlight key information. The next day, review the main points with a partner. Summarize with the class.

Writers use reference words and phrases to avoid repetition. A reference word such as a pronoun, possessive adjective, demonstrative, or quantifier generally refers back to a previously mentioned noun or noun phrase, which is called its referent. Reference questions on the TOEFL iBT ask you to match the meaning of a highlighted reference word or phrase with one of four answer choices. See the following list for a sample of reference words and phrases you may be asked to identify.

Common Reference Words

| Subject Pronouns          | she, he, it, they          |
| Object Pronouns           | her, him, it, them         |
| Possessive Pronouns       | hers, his, theirs          |
| Reflexive Pronouns        | herself, himself, itself, themselves |
| Relative Pronouns         | who, which, whose, whom, that, where, when |
| Possessive Adjectives     | her, his, its, their,      |
| Demonstratives            | this, that, these, those,  |
| Demonstrative Phrases     | this (item), that (nutrient), these (findings), those (products) |
| Quantifier Pronouns       | both, all, some, any, none, each, most, many, few, neither, either |
| Quantifier Phases         | both (commodities), all (contributions), either (position) |
| Other Reference Words     | the former, the latter, the first, the second |

How to Answer Reference Questions

1. Read
   Read the sentence containing the highlighted reference word or phrase.

2. Look for Nouns
   Look for nouns or noun phrases before the highlighted word that could replace the highlighted word. The correct answer will agree in number and gender and make sense in the context. For instance, if the pronoun is *them*, the noun or noun phrase has to be plural. If you can’t find a good match in the same or previous sentence, check further back.

3. Choose
   Choose the noun or noun phrase that fits best.

4. Replace
   Replace the highlighted word with your choice to be sure it makes sense.

5. Check Answers
   Check the answers to see if your choice is listed. If so, it is probably correct. Double check by eliminating definitely wrong answers.

6. Eliminate
   If your choice is not listed, eliminate definitely wrong answers.
Summary Chart

1. Complete the summary chart by filling in the blanks in the How to Respond section. If necessary, refer to the How to Answer Reference Questions chart on page 64.
2. Have your partner close his or her book. Quiz your partner about the content by asking questions. Change roles.

Test Example

The word it in the passage refers to
- food
- term
- calorie
- unit

Sample Answer

Read
While people generally link the term calorie with food, it is a unit of measurement...

Look for Nouns

The term, a calorie, and food are all singular third-person nouns that come before the highlighted word.

Choose
A calorie

Replace
A calorie makes sense in the context.

Check Answers
A calorie is listed as an answer selection, and it is correct. The term is not a unit of measurement and neither is food. A calorie is a unit of measurement. This is explained in the final sentence in which calories are shown to measure the amount of energy in a gallon of gasoline.

Understanding Calories
A calorie, also known as a kilocalorie, is a unit of energy. This unit represents the energy required to heat a kilogram of water one degree Celsius. While people generally link the term calorie with food, it is a unit of measurement that can be applied to any substance possessing energy. For instance, there are 8200 calories in a liter of gasoline.

Reference Questions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number per Passage</th>
<th>0–2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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| Key Information    | - The correct answer usually appears before the highlighted reference word.  
- However, the correct answer is not necessarily the noun or noun phrase closest to the reference word. It may even be in a different sentence. |
### Sample Question

The word (or phrase) X in the passage refers to

### How to Respond

1. **Read:** Read the sentence containing the *reference* word or phrase.
2. **Look for nouns:** Look for nouns or noun phrases before the highlighted word. The correct answer will agree in number and ___________ and ___________ sense in the context.
   - If you can’t find a good match in the same or previous sentence, check further back.
3. **Choose:** Choose the noun or noun __________ that fits best.
4. **__________ the highlighted word with your choice to be sure it makes sense.**
5. **Check answers:** Check the answers to see if your choice is listed. If so, it is probably ___________. Double-check by ____________ definitely wrong answers.
6. **Eliminate:** If your choice is __________ listed, eliminate definitely wrong answers.
7. **Replace:** Replace the highlighted __________ word with the other choices in turn.
8. **Choose:** Choose the answer that makes the most __________ in the context.

### Incorrect Answers

Do not agree in number or gender.

Do not make sense in the context.

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### 2R1 Reference Words, Cohesion, and Coherence

Understanding reference words and their relationship to previously mentioned nouns or noun phrases can also help you to answer another iBT question type: Insert Text Questions for which you have to determine the correct order of sentences. Since reference words connect to previously mentioned words or ideas, writers use them to bond one sentence to the next. This makes the text coherent or logically ordered.

To which nouns do the following highlighted reference words refer? Try to figure out the answer, then establish the proper order of the text. Indicate this order by writing the number 1, 2, or 3 beside each sentence.

- **a)** ______ These molecules travel through the bloodstream to specific cells where they are absorbed for immediate use or sent on to the final stage of metabolism where they release their stored energy through the process of oxidation.
- **b)** ______ Once consumed, enzymes act on these nutrients through metabolic processes and break them down into their respective categories of fatty acids, glucose, and amino acids.
- **c)** ______ Food calories may take the form of fat, carbohydrates, or proteins.

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### 2R2 Transitions and Coherence

Another method of connecting one sentence to the next is through the use of transitions. Establish the correct order of the following sentences by analyzing transition use. Indicate this order by writing the number 1, 2, or 3 beside each sentence.

- **a)** ______ However, this same person would burn an estimated 200 walking or playing table tennis.