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A reference for a student

1. I'm happy to act as a referee for ...
2. to have a keen interest in ...
3. to lack experience
4. to accumulate some practical experience
5. to pursue one's interest
6. to hone one's skills
7. to be of paramount importance *
8. to meet the challenges of ...

* no article needed as paramount importance is rather an abstract concept than a type of importance

A job reference

1. to provide a reference for ...
2. to wholeheartedly recommend someone
3. to have every confidence in someone's abilities / skills / enthusiasm
4. to perform tasks
5. to have remarkable financial acumen *
6. excellent interpersonal skills
7. to reveal a remarkable talent for ...
8. to trust somebody implicitly

* no article is used with the word acumen

Referring to someone's knowledge and skills

1. he has good / advanced computer skills
2. he's highly educated
3. he has a good level of education
4. a well - qualified engineer / an engineer with good qualifications
5. he has a good / ad advanced knowledge of english
6. she has an extensive / a comprehensive knowledge of all subjects
7. she has considerable experience of teaching *
8. she managed to establish / develop a good relationship with her boss .

9. Mrs Thomson is a highly valued member of staff

* experience is a stand - on - its own word so it takes no article

Describing experience

1. to have valuable experience
2. to have wealth of experience
3. his practical experience was instrumental in solving ...
4. candidates with proven experience
5. hands-on experience
6. diverse experience
7. international experience
8. real-world experience