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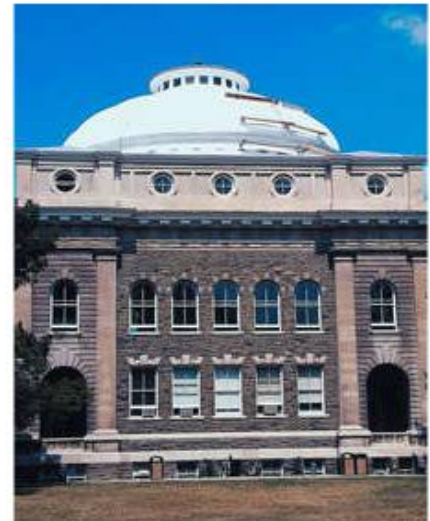
**DIRECTIONS:** Reference questions require you to determine the meaning of a **highlighted** reference term in a passage. To do this you must connect the highlighted reference word or phrase to its **referent**, that is, to the noun or noun phrase to which it refers. Each Reading Section may contain two or three reference questions.



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**How Reference Questions Work**

Here is how reference questions work:

- A reading passage with a highlighted term will appear on one screen. A question with four choices will appear on another screen.
- You will be asked to choose the correct referent for the highlighted term
- Decide which answer is correct and click on that choice.



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**How to Answer a Reference Question in Four Steps**

Follow these four steps to answer a reference question:

1. Read the sentence with the highlighted term.
2. Read several sentences before it.
3. Try using each answer choice in place of the highlighted term.
4. Decide which answer makes the most sense.



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**How to Find the Correct Referent**

Read the sentence carefully and don't answer too quickly. Following are some tips for finding the correct referent.

Remember that the referent

- can be a person, place, or thing
- can be an intangible idea, process, system, or set of conditions **or** a tangible item, such as a building or computer
- will usually come before the highlighted word or phrase in the text
- won't always be the noun nearest to the highlighted word



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**Examples of Reference Words**

The most common type of reference word is a pronoun. Other types include demonstratives and quantifiers, or other words such as *former* (before) and *latter* (last), which indicate the place or order of two persons or things just named.

Study these examples of reference words:

**Personal Pronouns/Adjectives**

*he, him, his, she, her, hers, it, its, they, them, their, theirs*

**Reflexive Pronouns**

*himself, herself, itself, yourself, themselves*

**Relative Pronouns/Adverbs**

*who, whose, whom, which, that, where, when*

**Demonstrative Pronouns/Adjectives**

*this, that, these, those*

(may also be used before nouns or in phrases: *this one, at that time, these problems, those new people*)

**Other Reference Words**

*some, few, any, none, several, both, here, there, most, many, one, ones, another, other, others, the former, the latter*

(many of these may also be used before nouns or in phrases: *some days, none of the theories, where both conditions are met*)



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## Sample Passage with Reference Question

Although the living conditions in the polar regions are among the most severe on Earth, the Inuit (Eskimos) of Alaska, northern Canada, and Greenland have successfully adapted to life in this harsh environment. While they inhabit the most restrictive and most nearly lifeless climatic zone on this planet, this group relies less on the resources of the land than on the large variety of fish and sea mammals, such as cod, salmon, halibut, seal, walrus, and whale that occupy the adjacent seas. As **their** communication with the rest of the world has increased and they have become acquainted with alternative lifestyles, however, the permanent population of these people living in the far north has greatly diminished.

The word **their** in the passage refers to

- ☐ polar regions
- ☒ the Inuit
- ☐ fish and sea mammals
- ☐ seas

**Explanation of Answer Choice**

There are several word clues in the sentence to the referent of **their**: *communicate*, *get acquainted*, *lifestyles*, *population*. The terms *get acquainted* and *lifestyles* always refer to people, while *communicate* and *population* usually refer to people. Thus, the correct answer will likely be a noun or noun phrase that stands for people. Remember: you can often eliminate incorrect answers by substituting answer choices in the sentence.

The first choice is wrong because *polar regions* mean an area.

The third choice is wrong because *fish and sea mammals* mean animals.

The fourth choice is wrong because *seas* mean large bodies of water.

The second choice is correct. The *Inuit* mean people and are the specific group of people to which **their** refers.