**PRONOUN REFERENCE**

**Reading Comprehension I**

**Lecturer**

**Retno Purwani Sari, S.S., M.Hum**

The following words are pronouns:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| S | O | Possessive pronoun | Possessive adjective (determiner)\* |
| I | me | mine | My |
| we | us | ours | Our |
| you | you | yours | Your |
| they | them | theirs | Their |
| he | him | his | His |
| she | her | hers | her |
| it | it | - | Its |
| this | this | - | This |
| that | that | - | that |
| these | these | - | these |
| those | those | - | Those |

Note

\* they are called possessive adjective or determiner since they modify nouns.

In a text, pronouns can take the place of (substitute for) other words. Sometimes pronoun substitutes for:

1. Single nouns. The noun comes first.

Bob was tired. **He** went home.

**He** refers to **Bob**.

1. A group of words.

My neighbor’s dog is brown. **It** barks a lot.

**It** refers to **my neighbor’s dog**.

1. A whole sentence.

Mary was sick yesterday. **That** is why she stayed home.

**That** substitues for all of sentence “Mary was sick yesterday.”

**EXERCISES**

**Below are sentences from the mid-test reading selection “What is culture?” Read the sentences and aswer the questions.**

1. People have to learn the cultural ways of their community; they are not something that the people in the group are born with.

What is the first pronoun? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What does it refer to? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What is the second pronoun? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What are not something that the people in the group are born with? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. The mother spider does not teach her babies how to spin webs. They know how to do it when they are born.

In the second sentence, what is the first pronoun? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What does the pronoun refer to? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What is the second pronoun? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What do baby spiders know how to do when they are born? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Baby birds will instinctivelu run away if a cardboard shape of a hawk is moved forwards over their heads. However, they do not run if the cardboard shape is moved backwards.

What is the pronoun in the second sentence? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What does the pronoun refer to? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Hawks do not fly backwards, so the baby birds’ instinct does not tell them that there is any danger.

What is the pronoun in the above sentence? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What does it refer to? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. We learn more of the ways of our culture by growing up in it.

What do we grow up in?

1. All human beings have certain basic needs such as eating, drinking, keeping warm and dry, and so on. However, the way in which they take care of these needs depends on the culture in which they grow up.

What does “they” refer to? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What are “these needs”? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. The Flathead Indians of North America used to bind the heads of babies between boards so they would have long sloping foreheads.

What does the pronoun “they” refer to? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. In the Flathead culture, long sloping foreheads were beautiful. Other cultures think that they are strange-looking and unattractive.

What do other cultures think are strange-looking and unattractive? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. The Chinese used to bind women’s feet because they regarded small feet as beautiful.

Who regarded small feet as beautiful? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_