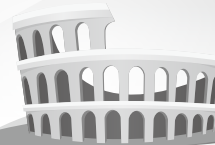


Technology



Reading

Skill: Noting references

Sometimes the writer uses different words to refer to the same person, place or item. You can find out who or what these words refer to by reading the sentence(s) before them.

e.g. *We enjoy the help of machines. In fact, we all need these working partners.*

(*These working partners* refers to machines.)

Reading comprehension

Read the following letter to the editor.

Debating

S

Vocabulary help

Artificial
Intelligence (phr.) 人工智能
defeat (v.) 擊敗
Go (n.) 圍棋
advancement (n.) 進步
Industrial
Revolution (phr.) 工業革命
dig (v.) 挖掘
mine (n.) 礦
harsh (adj.) 惡劣的
surgery (n.) 外科手術
unmanned (adj.) 無人的
drone (n.) 無人駕駛飛機
unemployment (n.) 失業
costly (adj.) 昂貴的
hack (v.) 非法侵入他人的電腦系統
corrupt (v.) 破壞
virus (n.) 電腦病毒
mental capacity (phr.) 意識能力
neutral (adj.) 中立的

Dear Editor,

Recently I read from the news that AlphaGo, a kind of robot run by AI (Artificial Intelligence), has defeated the South Korean Go champion in a match. People are amazed. Some worry that super-intelligent machines will replace us some day. Let's discuss their advantages and disadvantages.

Robots, like any machines, mean great advancement. If scientists had not invented the steam engine during the Industrial Revolution (1760–1830), production and our daily life would not have been improved. Today, robots can carry out repetitive, expensive and time-consuming tasks more effectively than traditional labours.

Besides, robots can dig in mines, explore in oceans and fly to space. These are harsh and dangerous environments. If it were not for robots, many great projects would be impossible. These include medical surgeries done by them. In fact, more amazing inventions are coming: driverless cars, unmanned robo-ships and electric drones!

However, people complain that workers are being replaced by robots, leading to unemployment. In 2014, the writers of *The Second Machine Age* argued that the digital revolution would crush the job market. It is true that many workers have already lost their jobs.

Besides, the maintenance of robots is costly and there are potential risks. As computers can be hacked, robots can become corrupted by viruses and attack humans. This fear, mixed with love, was shared when the computer was awarded 'Machine of the Year' by *Time* magazine in 1982. If we are too dependent on robots, we may lose our mental capacities one day.

These are the pros and cons of using robots. Technology itself is neutral. It is important that people make good use of robots. What do other readers think?

Chris Wong (from Kwun Tong)

Answer the following questions.



1. What does 'super-intelligent machines' in paragraph 1 refer to?

2. According to paragraph 2, in what ways are robots better than traditional labours?

3. The writer foresees that robots can do more in the near future. Give three examples.



4. The writer uses the book *The Second Machine Age* as an example to show that...

- ☐ A. there is unemployment.
☐ B. the digital revolution is more important than the Industrial Revolution.
☐ C. robots have taken over many workers' jobs.
☐ D. the workers are complaining.



Smart tip

You can make inference from the last two sentences of paragraph 4.



- HKDSE** 5. Complete the following summary using ideas given in paragraph 5. Write **ONE** word for each blank. Answers must be grammatically correct.

The maintenance of robots (i) _____ a lot. People fear that robots may be hacked and (ii) _____ humans. Also, people (iii) _____ on robots so much that they may not be so smart one day.



Smart tip

You have to choose words from the text and change the word form when necessary.

- HKDSE** 6. Number the following events in chronological order. Write 1–4 on the lines provided.

The computer was awarded 'Machine of the Year'. _____

The Second Machine Age was written. _____

The Industrial Revolution started. _____

AlphaGo beat the South Korean Go champion. _____

- HKDSE** 7. What is the writer's attitude towards using robots?

- ☐ A. He strongly supports the use of robots.
☐ B. He disagrees with the use of robots.
☐ C. He is open towards the use of robots.
☐ D. He thinks it does not matter much because robots are not important at all.



Vocabulary help

tourist spot (phr.)
旅遊景點
Taj Mahal (phr.) 泰
姬陵

Famous tourist spots	
A. Big Ben (Britain)	B. Eiffel Tower (France)
C. Istanbul Blue Mosque (Turkey)	D. Pyramids (Egypt)
E. Statue of Liberty (America)	F. Sydney Opera House (Australia)
G. Taj Mahal (India)	H. Tower of Pisa (Italy)

Exercise

A. Label the following tourist spots. Write the correct letters in the boxes.



B. Here are some adjectives and noun phrases describing different holiday experiences. Circle the odd one out in each type.

Vocabulary help

luxurious (adj.) 豪華的
backward (adj.) 落後的
spectacular (adj.) 壯觀的
breathtaking (adj.) 令人屏息的
worn-out (adj.) 破舊的
cruise (n.) 乘船遊覽
hot spring (phr.) 溫泉
jeep (n.) 吉普車

1. hotel	grand, luxurious, facing the sea, dark, famous
2. people	local, backward, friendly, curious, interesting
3. scenery	quick, beautiful, spectacular, amazing, breathtaking
4. place	tower, church, mosque, museum, hospital
5. atmosphere	quiet, worn-out, mysterious, laid-back, lively
6. activity	day trip, cruise, storytelling, food stall visit, hot spring bath
7. transportation	plane, train, lorry, coach, jeep



Type 3 Conditionals

You use Type 3 conditionals to talk about imaginary situations in the past. They refer to past situations which could have happened but did not happen, or vice versa. You use the past perfect in the *if*-clause and *would have* + the past participle in the main clause.

If-clause	Main clause
<i>If the inventor <u>had invented</u> the smartphone ten years earlier,</i>	<i>more people <u>would have enjoyed</u> the convenience it brings.</i>
<i>If scientists <u>had not worked</u> hard,</i>	<i>we <u>would not have got</u> so many advanced devices.</i>

Vocabulary help

imaginary (adj.) 想像的
vice versa (adv.) 反之亦然
convenience (n.) 便利
device (n.) 裝置

Exercise

A. Complete the conditional sentences by writing the correct letters (A–E) in the spaces provided.

- | | | |
|--|-------|--|
| 1. If I had studied information technology, | _____ | A. if she had not spent so much on online shopping. |
| 2. If Dad had joined the distance learning course, | _____ | B. transportation would have been more inconvenient. |
| 3. Kate would not have got into debt | _____ | C. I would have become a programmer. |
| 4. If cars had not been invented, | _____ | D. he would have obtained a degree. |
| 5. Ivy would not have made this mistake | _____ | E. if she had been more careful. |

Vocabulary help

distance learning course (phr.) 遙距課程
debt (n.) 債務
programmer (n.) 程式員
obtain (v.) 獲得
degree (n.) 學位

B. Read the blog. Fill in the blanks using the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

I was paralysed from the neck down due to a car accident. Since then I've been unable to do simple things by myself like making a phone call. If there (1) _____ (not / be) such an accident, I (2) _____ (become) an athlete!

Luckily, technology has helped me a lot. If scientists (3) _____ (not / create) Sesame Phone, my life (4) _____ (be) more difficult and my friends (5) _____ (not / reach) me so easily. I simply say 'Open Sesame' and the head gesture tracking is on. Through the Sesame software, I can even get access to millions of apps. If technology (6) _____ (not / be) so advanced, I (7) _____ (not / have) the chance to broaden my horizons.

Vocabulary help

paralyse (v.) 癱瘓
gesture (n.) 示意動作
tracking (n.) 追蹤
software (n.) 軟件

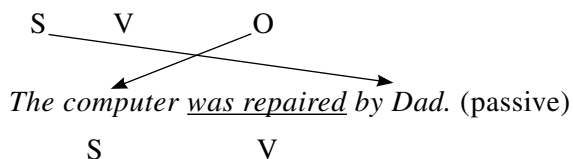
Smart tip

Use Type 3 conditionals only.

The passive voice

English has two ‘voices’, an active voice and a passive voice. In the active voice the subject (S) is doing the action. You form the passive voice by moving the object (O) of an active sentence to become the subject of a passive sentence. The active verb (V) changes into the passive form, e.g.

Dad repaired the computer. (active)



You use the passive voice when you do not know who or what the doer of an action is, or when it is obvious so you do not need to mention it, e.g.

The information technology centre will be opened this Saturday.

The following table shows the passive voice in different tenses and with modal verbs.

Simple present	<i>is/am/are + past participle</i>
Present continuous	<i>is/am/are + being + past participle</i>
Simple past	<i>was/were + past participle</i>
Past continuous	<i>was/were + being + past participle</i>
Present perfect	<i>has/have + been + past participle</i>
Past perfect	<i>had + been + past participle</i>
Simple future	<i>will + be + past participle</i>
Modal verbs	<i>can/could/may/might/must/should + be + past participle</i>

Exercise

C. Complete the sentences using the correct form of the passive voice.

- The boss receives many emails every day.
_____ by the boss every day.
- They will install a CCTV camera at home tomorrow.
_____ at home by them tomorrow.
- Somebody stole my laptop last Sunday.
_____ last Sunday.
- The robot is doing all the housework.
_____ by the robot.
- Mr Lau has just given a speech on information technology.
_____ by Mr Lau.
- You must submit your application by email.
_____ by email.



Vocabulary help

install (v.) 安裝
CCTV = Closed-Circuit Television (abbr.) 閉路電視
application (n.) 申請



Skill: Identifying views of speakers: positive, negative or neutral

You are sometimes required to identify the speakers' points of view on somebody's idea. They may accept or reject an idea, or they may remain neutral. Here are some expressions commonly used when giving responses.

Positive response	Negative response	Neutral response
<i>Absolutely/Certainly/Definitely.</i>	<i>Awful/Bad/Terrible!</i>	<i>All right. / Not bad.</i>
<i>Fantastic/Good/Great!</i>	<i>Certainly/Definitely not. / No way.</i>	<i>I'm in two minds.</i>
<i>I agree. / Of course. / You're right.</i>	<i>I disagree. / I don't think so. / You're wrong.</i>	<i>I'm not sure. / I suppose so. / You could be right. / I don't really know.</i>
		<i>I don't mind.</i>
		<i>Maybe/Perhaps/Possibly.</i>

Vocabulary help
 reject (v.) 拒絕
 fantastic (adj.) 極好的
 be in two minds (idiom) 猶豫不決

Exercise

Listen to the radio programme and complete the notes.



Impact	Person	Point of view			Reason/Experience
		Yes	No	Not sure	
1. Exposure	Richard	✓			can download _____ videos he likes
	Jane				can pull up videos of _____
2. Advertisements	Richard				a waste of _____
	Jane				does not mind waiting for _____
3. Appropriacy of uploading _____	Richard				the duty of _____ and _____ to teach children
	Jane				some _____ were hurt; cyberbullying will _____

Vocabulary help
 impact (n.) 影響
 exposure (n.) 接觸
 層面
 pull up (phr.) 取得
 advertisement (n.) 廣告
 appropriacy (n.) 恰當性
 cyberbullying (n.) 網絡欺凌





Situation

You are May Chow. You are collecting information for a board display on online shopping. Listen to the discussion involving two speakers about the pros and cons of online shopping. As you listen you can make notes on the note-taking sheet.



Listening note-taking sheet

Vocabulary help

impulse (n.) 衝動
bargaining (n.) 討價還價
examination (n.) 檢查

	Pros of online shopping	Cons of online shopping
Laura	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> convenience: shoppers buy items _____ can _____ products can _____ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> impulse buying: shoppers cannot _____ may buy _____ quality items or websites may _____
Tony	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> _____ : no need to _____ or stand in queues to _____ no _____ from salespeople 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> _____ : no bargaining or personal attention to customers no _____ examination of items problem of _____

Data File

Study the Data File for relevant information to be included in the writing task.

Vocabulary help

reservation (n.) 預訂
trend (n.) 趨勢

1. Table showing the most popular online shopping items

1. Books	44%
2. Clothing	36%
3. Airline tickets	32%
4. Electronic equipment	27%
5. Hotel reservations	26%

2. Memo from Miss Yu to May

Hi May,

Please refer to the table and show the trend of online shopping items. Have you noticed that two items are related to the travel industry? Mention it in your outline. Thanks.

Miss Yu

Exercise

Complete the board display outline using information from the Data File and your notes.

Pros and cons of online shopping and its trend

People enjoy online shopping for its _____. They can buy _____. They can _____ and _____. Besides, it is _____ since there is no need to _____. There is also _____. However, _____ results when shoppers cannot _____. Sometimes they may buy _____ or _____. The shopping experience may be _____ because there is _____. Besides, there is _____. Worse still is the _____ problem. The five most popular online shopping items are _____. Among these, _____ and _____ are related to the _____.

Smart tip

Mention the pros and cons of online shopping in the first two paragraphs. Then show the trend of online shopping items. Lastly, mention the two items that are related.



Report: Using the passive voice

You write a report to show factual information and evaluate a situation in order to make a recommendation. The past tense is mostly used to present figures like percentages. The report should be written in an objective tone. Therefore, the passive voice is often used, for example, *The survey was conducted...*, *Respondents were asked...* and *It is hoped that...* You can also use expressions such as *According to the respondents* and *Based on the findings*.

A report should include the following:

Title

Give your report an appropriate title.

Introduction

Provide relevant background information and state the purpose of the report. Explain how the data was collected.

Findings

Present the data clearly, recording each point in one paragraph.

Conclusion and recommendation

Draw a conclusion based on the findings and suggest actions to be taken if appropriate.

Vocabulary help

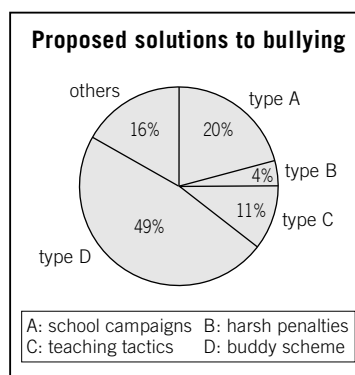
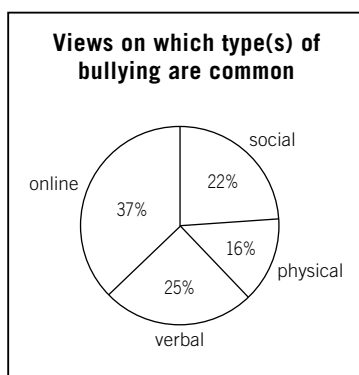
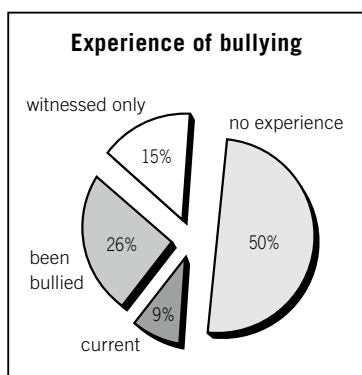
evaluate (v.) 評估
 recommendation (n.) 建議
 objective (adj.) 客觀的
 respondent (n.) 受訪者

Exercise

Recently, there has been a lot of discussion about bullying at school and online. As the chairperson of the Student Union, you have conducted a survey on students' experiences and views about it. You have also collected suggestions for ways of tackling it. Write a 150-word report on the survey based on the findings.

Vocabulary help

tackle (v.) 處理
 physical (adj.) 身體上的
 verbal (adj.) 言語上的
 solution (n.) 解決辦法
 harsh penalty (phr.) 嚴懲
 tactic (n.) 策略
 buddy scheme (phr.) 學友計劃



Vocabulary help

Title:

Introduction:

Finding (1):

Finding (2):

Finding (3):

Conclusion and recommendation:

[illegible]



Making use of given prompts

You will be given some prompts to prepare for a group discussion in an oral exam. You have to understand the prompts and make use of them in the discussion.

The given prompts usually include four parts:

Instruction

Show the text type of the discussion input you are going to read.

Discussion input

Tell you the subject matter and provide relevant information for the discussion. Some common kinds of input are a news article, a letter to the editor, a poster, a table and a chart.

Task description

Tell you the situation, your role and details of the task.

Discussion points

Provide four points for discussion.



prompt (n.) 提示
extract (v.) 選取

You will have 10 minutes to prepare for the discussion. Make notes on the notecard during the preparation time.

Dividing the notecard into four parts

Familiarise yourself with the discussion task and make notes of the key points.

To make notes clearly, you may divide the notecard into four parts, i.e. the four discussion points.

Extracting points from the input

Try to extract relevant points from the input. Then generate ideas and reasons to support your points.

Here is an example showing some parts of the given prompts.

You and three other classmates are talking about the best holiday destinations. You will be given 10 minutes to prepare. The time allowed for the group discussion is 8 minutes. You should think about:

- Where to go
- What kind of holiday
- Which activities you would like to do
- Anything else you think is important

Task
description

Discussion
points

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where to go - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What kind of holiday -
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which activities you would like to do - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anything else you think is important -

Exercise

A. Read the following prompts for a group discussion and identify the different parts by writing the correct letters (A–D) in the boxes.

A. Discussion input

B. Discussion points

C. Task description

D. Instruction

Vocabulary help

enchanted (adj.)

迷人的

sky lantern (phr.)

天燈

erode (v.) 侵蝕

landscape (n.) 地形

地形

incineration plant

(phr.) 焚化爐

heaven (n.) 天堂

cosmopolitan

(adj.) 大都會的

recreation (n.) 康樂

樂

ethnic (adj.) 種族的

的

broaden (v.) 擴闊

horizon (n.) 視野

enhance (v.) 有助

fulfil (v.) 達到

The following is a poster.

Amazing Taiwan, Enchanting Culture

- Magical sky lantern tour along the old rail line
- Northern sea coast: sea-eroded landscapes, Yehliu Geopark, Queen's Head
- Refuse incineration plant and food waste centre
- Local dishes and snacks: food heaven

\$3,500 (5 days)

Cosmopolitan Singapore, Eye-opening Experience

- Sentosa Island: fun and recreation
- NEWater Visitor Centre: water reuse
- Mobile classroom built from double-decker bus and led by English native speakers
- Ethnic districts: Little India and China Town

\$5,000 (5 days)

Aims: to broaden students' horizons and enhance their learning about the cultures of Asian cities

You are the chairperson of the Student Union. Your principal would like to organise a 5-day study tour for all Secondary Three students during the Easter holiday. Discuss which tour is more suitable for students and explain your choice. You should think about:

- Which tour students will be more interested in
- What students can do and learn from the tour
- Which tour can fulfil the aims and can be afforded by most students
- Anything else you think is important

B. Make notes on the notecard below based on the discussion topic in Part A.



A. The underlined idioms in the left column are related to different countries. Match each idiom with the correct meaning in the right column.

Idiom	Meaning
1. This book about science is too hard for non-science students. <u>It's all Greek to me.</u>	A. a message is passed on by a number of people, often becoming distorted in the process
2. My boyfriend and I always <u>go Dutch</u> when we go on a date.	B. to share the cost of something with somebody
3. Please don't listen to the rumours about your boss. It's only <u>Chinese whispers.</u>	C. a young person who is keen on making radical changes in an organisation
4. Peter is quite lazy and often <u>takes French leave.</u>	D. you do not understand something
5. As a <u>young Turk</u> in the company, John should learn to compromise with others.	E. to leave work or duty without permission

Vocabulary help







date (n.) 約會
 whisper (n.) 輕聲說話
 compromise (v.) 妥協
 distort (v.) 扭曲
 radical (adj.) 激進的
 permission (n.) 批准

B. Here are some signs you can see in an airport. Match the meaning with the pictures. Write the correct letters (A–F) in the boxes.

A. Information	B. Arrivals	C. Baggage	D. Shops
E. Money exchange	F. Departures		

Vocabulary help

arrival (n.) 入境
 baggage (n.) 行李
 departure (n.) 離境

1 	2 	3 
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
4 	5 	6 
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>