

**Replacing nouns**

Consider the following sentence:

While **English** is spoken in many parts of the world, **English** is difficult to master.

**1. Replacement by a general word:**

Add **this/the** before **the group name** to make a specific reference

While **English** is spoken in many parts of the world, **this language** is difficult to master.

**2. Replacement by a pronoun:**

**It** can be used to represent a noun/noun phrase.

(**This/That** must be used to represent ideas.)

While **English** is spoken in many parts of the world, **it** is difficult to master.

We're going to eat first and then go to the film. Are you happy with **that**?

**However, make sure it is clear which noun a pronoun refers to.**

You might have to repeat a noun rather than using a pronoun.

Consider the following unclear version of a paragraph:

*Doctors and patients must have a good relationship. **They** must be friendly and relaxed so that **they** feel comfortable. Then, **they** will be willing to openly discuss their problems with **them**.*

**How do you improve it?**

Doctors and patients must have a good relationship. **Medical practitioners** must be friendly and relaxed so that **their clients** feel comfortable. Then, **they** will be willing to openly discuss their problems **with them**.

**3. Referencing previous ideas:**

**one, another, the first, the former...the latter**, etc.

There are two advantages of having friends who are different from ourselves. **The first** is that you can share different opinions. **The second/Another** is that they can learn a lot from each other.

There are many cats out there, but these **ones** are mine. In my spare time, I would help **those** out there find a good home.