

Exercise walk-through

The function of specific words and phrases ■ 2.4

eXercise

You must be able to

- define an antecedent and a referent
- state what makes a referent ambiguous and why it matters
- state why words or phrases are repeated
- define alliteration and its purpose

Method — Antecedent and referent

An antecedent is a word, phrase or clause that precedes its referent. Referents may include pronouns, nouns, phrases or clauses — the referent points back, the antecedent is what it points to.

Method — Ambiguity

Referents are ambiguous if they can refer to more than one antecedent, which affects interpretation. Ambiguity is not an error here: an unresolvable “it” may be doing work.

Method — Repetition

Words or phrases may be repeated to emphasise ideas or associations. The second occurrence is read against the first.

Method — Alliteration

The repetition of the same letter sound at the beginning of adjacent or nearby words to emphasise those words and their associations or representations. The point is the emphasis, not the pattern.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

Define an antecedent and a referent.

Solution 2.1

Method: Antecedent and referent

Worked steps

an antecedent is a word, phrase or clause that precedes its referent **B1**; the referent points back to it **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

State what makes a referent ambiguous and its consequence.

Solution 2.2

Worked steps

it can refer to more than one antecedent **B1**, which affects interpretation **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 2 marks

Define alliteration.

- (a) State the definition.
- (b) State its purpose in the CED's terms.

Solution 2.3

Worked steps

(a) the repetition of the same letter sound at the beginning of adjacent or nearby words **B2**. (b) to emphasise those words and their associations or representations **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

An ambiguous referent is one that

- A** can refer to more than one antecedent
- B** has no antecedent
- C** is alliterative
- D** is repeated

Solution 3.1

A can refer to more than one antecedent



B has no antecedent

C is alliterative

D is repeated

Worked steps

A. more than one possible antecedent.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

Repetition is used to emphasise ideas or

- A** associations
- B** page numbers
- C** rhyme schemes
- D** dates

Solution 3.2

Method: Repetition

A associations



B page numbers

C rhyme schemes

D dates

Worked steps

A. associations.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

A poem uses “it” where two nouns could be meant.

- (a) State what this creates.
- (b) Explain why this is not necessarily a fault.

Solution 3.3

Worked steps

(a) an ambiguous referent **B1**. (b) the ambiguity may be doing work **B1**, holding two readings together where the poem does not want to choose **B1**.