

Understand referring words

1 Match the sentence parts to complete the tips.

REMEMBER HOW TO ...

understand referring words

- 1 I, me, my, etc _____
- 2 That, which, who, etc _____
- 3 An adjective + one/ones _____
- 4 Here/There _____
- 5 This/That at the start of a sentence _____
- a refers back to a place.
- b refers back to a noun.
- c refer back to people and things.
- d refer back to the previous sentence.
- e add more information about the noun before.

2 Read the article. Why is each school unusual?

UNUSUAL SCHOOLS

A

ALPHA school

The ALPHA free school in Toronto, Canada, is a school without marks or exams. It is run by the pupils themselves. Each day the student committee meets to vote on the school rules. Teachers don't tell them to study or do homework. Pupils decide what activities **they** want to do. Children can study in mixed age groups with other children who share the same interests. Pupils can study normal school subjects or choose other **ones** that they're interested in like cooking or modelling.

B

Nomadic school

The Evenk people in northern Siberia are nomads. They travel from place to place, following the herds of reindeer. **This** makes it difficult for their children to go to school. In the past, **they** had to go to a boarding school in the village, and they were separated from their families and their community. Today the problem has been solved with the help of the nomadic schools. Teachers travel around with the nomadic groups and teach the small groups of children all the normal school subjects. As well as studying with their teachers, the children can speak their own language, look after the reindeer and learn to hunt with their parents. They study in the nomadic school until the age of 13. After that, they have to complete their education in the village school.

3 Decide if these statements are correct (C) or incorrect (I).

- Students at the ALPHA school ...
 - 1 take a lot of tests. _____
 - 2 can study in a class with younger people. _____
 - 3 must do geography and maths. _____
 - 4 can study unusual subjects. _____
- Students at the nomadic school ...
 - 5 study far from their families. _____
 - 6 have a large number of classmates. _____
 - 7 are taught to hunt by their teachers. _____
 - 8 must go to normal school when they're 13. _____
- Students at boat schools ...
 - 9 can study when it rains. _____
 - 10 learn about sailing. _____
 - 11 study on the roof of a boat. _____
 - 12 have lessons for three hours a day. _____

4 What do the words in bold in the article refer to?

- 1 they *pupils* _____
- 2 ones _____
- 3 This _____
- 4 they _____
- 5 there _____
- 6 them _____

5 Rewrite the sentences. Replace the word(s) in bold with a referring word (this, etc).

- 1 The school is run by the students. Teachers don't tell **the children** what to do.
Teachers don't tell them what to do.
- 2 Students can go to the same classes or they can go to different **classes**.
- 3 Siberia is in northern Russia. It's very cold in **Siberia**.
- 4 The teachers travel with the children and teach **the children** in their homes.
- 5 The boat picks the students up, and **the boat** takes the children back home.
- 6 There is a lot of heavy rain in the monsoon season. **The heavy rain** causes a lot of damage to buildings and roads.

GO BEYOND

Go online to find another unusual school. Make notes about it. Then describe it to your class.

C

Boat schools, Bangladesh

Many children in Bangladesh can't go to school during the monsoon season. The heavy rains cause severe floods **there**, and sometimes the school buildings are destroyed or children can't get to **them** because the roads are flooded.

The solution? To bring the schools to the children by boat. The boat sails along the shore picking up children of about the same age along the way. When it is full – about 30–35 children – class begins. The boats are equipped with books and computers. Solar panels on the roof provide all the electricity they need. Each lesson lasts for three hours. Then the boat takes the students back to their homes and leaves to pick up another group of students.

