C1 Advanced – Reading Part 7 – Understanding Reference

A. Read the text and the missing paragraphs quickly. Highlight any reference words that you find (*e.g. this, that, it, such*). The first one has been done for you.

B. Discuss with a partner what the reference words could be referring to, write notes next to the text. There is one example done for you.

Cinque Terre

There's little doubt that Cinque Terre is one of the world's most famous and beautiful destinations. When you see pictures of the five picturesque villages set against a rugged mountainous Italian coastline, you can't help but imagine yourself exploring the narrow streets or relaxing in one of the many traditional cafés.

1	

Long-time residents of the area are conflicted about such drastic change. Where olives and grapes dominated, there are now holiday apartments and restaurants. However, the majority of people are thankful for the improved economy. Its unique cultural landscape earned UNESCO World Heritage recognition in 1997.

What change?

2	

This phenomenon is unmistakable in the largest of the five villages, Monterosso al Mare, where you can hire a sunbed on the beach while appreciating the architecture of the 13th century parish church on the hillside above you. This is also where you can start your journey along the coastal trail that links the different villages of the region. This potentially gruelling hike takes in some of the more intimate views of the sea-swept Cinque Terre coast.

3	

No matter how you feel about the explosion of tourism in Cinque Terre, you are sure to fall madly in love with it. Colourful terraced houses meet the crisp Mediterranean coast, conjuring up an image of times past and a world that, for many of us, has long since been left behind.

A. That is the main reason why so many people decide to visit Cinque Terre every year. Not only are visitors welcomed with open arms, they are spoilt for choice. Whether you are an intrepid backpacker or an avid foodie, there will be something for you here.

B. This is the charm which makes Cinque Terre an incredibly popular tourist destination. In fact, tourism is likely the reason why the region has prospered in recent decades. Travellers from around the world spend their hard-earned money on espresso, gelato and souvenirs while the limited existing traditional industry is steadily declining.

C. If that doesn't take your fancy, there is also a train between localities. Despite being less adventurous, it is by far the most straightforward option for weary travellers. As a matter of fact, the railway, built in the 1870s, made the villages easier for tourists to reach.

D. The area deserves the esteem. There aren't many places in the world that have managed to cultivate such a unique blend of tradition and modern convenience.

C. Choose from the paragraphs A – D the one that fits each gap (1 – 3). There is one extra paragraph which you do not need to use. Use the reference words to help you.

D. With a partner, discuss what other links you found between paragraphs. What links were there based on the flow of the text, vocabulary, or concepts discussed?

© 2026 | Permission granted to reproduce for classroom use

ANSWER KEY

1. **B**
2. **D**
3. **C**

Not used: A

Reference to the previous paragraph is highlighted in yellow

Reference to the following paragraph is highlighted in green

Distractors in the unused paragraph are highlighted in blue

Cinque Terre

There's little doubt that Cinque Terre is one of the world's most famous and beautiful destinations. When you see pictures of the five picturesque villages set against a rugged mountainous Italian coastline, you can't help but imagine yourself exploring the narrow streets or relaxing in one of the many traditional cafés.

1	

Long-time residents of the area are conflicted about such drastic change. Where olives and grapes dominated, there are now holiday apartments and restaurants. However, the majority of people are thankful for the improved economy. Its unique cultural landscape earned UNESCO World Heritage recognition in 1997.

2	

This phenomenon is unmistakable in the largest of the five villages, Monterosso al Mare, where you can hire a sunbed on the beach while appreciating the architecture of the 13th century parish church on the hillside above you. This is also where you can start your journey along the coastal trail that links the different villages of the region. This potentially gruelling hike takes in some of the more intimate views of the sea-swept Cinque Terre coast.

3	

No matter how you feel about the explosion of tourism in Cinque Terre, you are sure to fall madly in love with it. Colourful terraced houses meet the crisp Mediterranean coast, conjuring up an image of times past and a world that, for many of us, has long since been left behind.

A. That is the main reason why so many people decide to visit Cinque Terre every year. Not only are visitors welcomed with open arms, they are spoilt for choice. Whether you are an intrepid backpacker or an avid foodie, there will be something for you here.

B. This is the charm which makes Cinque Terre an incredibly popular tourist destination. In fact, tourism is likely the reason why the region has prospered in recent decades. Travellers from around the world spend their hard-earned money on espresso, gelato and souvenirs while the limited existing traditional industry is steadily declining.

C. If that doesn't take your fancy, there is also a train between localities. Despite being less adventurous, it is by far the most straightforward option for weary travellers. As a matter of fact, the railway, built in the 1870s, made the villages easier for tourists to reach.

D. The area deserves the esteem. There aren't many places in the world that have managed to cultivate such a unique blend of tradition and modern convenience.

© 2026 | Permission granted to reproduce for classroom use