

READING 1 | The New Oases



You are going to read an article from the news magazine *The Economist* that describes a change in the design of public places caused by modern technology and lifestyles. Use the article to gather information and ideas for your Unit Assignment.

Reading Skill | Following ideas

When you read longer texts from newspapers, magazines, and books, you often have to follow complicated ideas and understand how the ideas develop. It is important not just to recognize these ideas, but also to understand how they connect to present a story or argument. Here are some tips that can help you follow ideas through a text:

When you see a pronoun (*it, they, them, her, who, which, etc.*), make sure you know the **referent** (the noun that the pronoun replaces). Find the referent by scanning back in the text.

☐ **The new library** is a beautiful building. **It** is light, open, and welcoming.

Demonstrative pronouns such as *this* and *these* usually refer to the last idea, not just the last noun (for example, the last sentence or the entire last paragraph). Stop and ask yourself this question: What was the idea?

☐ **Many students rely on their laptops.** **This** means that they can work anywhere.

A sentence or paragraph might begin with a word or phrase that acts as a summary of the previous idea. Often, the word is a different part of speech (for example, a noun instead of a verb).

When you see a summary word or phrase, check that you understood the last idea and expect examples, supporting details, or a new topic to come next. In this example, "This shift" refers to the change in the design of public buildings. Details regarding the change follow.

☐ The design of public buildings **has changed.** **This shift** can be seen everywhere, from university libraries to public parks.

