

“IT”

PRONOUN

Pronoun “IT” Used as the pronoun of both a subject and an object pronoun:	Dummy “IT” we cannot identify precisely what <i>it</i> refers to. It has a rather vague reference.	Anticipatory “IT” used to "anticipate" something which appears later in the same sentence:
I think you've broken it.	It was after midnight when I left the office.	It won't do any good to hide from me. (to hide from me won't do any good)
Don't drink the milk. It smells terrible.	I've had it with this place - I'm leaving!	It's very kind of you to see me at short notice. (to see me at short notice is very kind of you).
Has anyone seen my phone? I can't find it anywhere.	It is four o'clock It is snowing It's going to rain	It's great to see you (to see you is great)
That furniture is lovely. It isn't too expensive for us, is it?	Take it easy!	It's a pity you can't come to my party. (That you can't come to my party is a pity)
'Where's your car?' 'It's in the garage.'	It's getting a bit late now, so let's watch a DVD at home, shall we?	We all know that it is important to finish early... (To finish early is important, and we all know that)
Did you see it?	She doesn't like it when you are so quiet.	It's good that she's doing more exercise. (or, more formally: That she's doing more exercise is good.)
Start a new file and put this letter in it.	How long will it be before he gives up smoking?	It was nice to talk with them again. (or, more formally: To talk with them again was nice.)
When the factory closes, it will mean 500 people losing their jobs.	Many people find it difficult to listen carefully to others.	It's quite likely that we shall be late, so please do start without us. (That we shall be late is quite likely, so please do start without us.)

Typical mistakes :

1) Wrongly omitting “IT” when used as anticipatory “IT”, when it follows a noun, verb, or a relative pronoun.

✗ We all know that is important to finish early...

✓ We all know that **it** is important to finish early...

✗ Without this guarantee is clear that there can be no new partnership.

✓ Without this guarantee **it** is clear that there can be no new partnership

✗ This applies especially to our life primary insurers, for whom is particularly important to...

✓ This applies especially to our life primary insurers, for whom **it** is particularly important to...

2) Not following the anticipatory “IT” with a to-infinitive phrase , a gerund or a noun clause.

A noun clause is a dependent clause that acts as a noun.

Noun clauses begin with words such as how, that, what, whatever, when, where, whether, which, whichever, who, whoever, whom, whomever, and why.

Examples:

✗ It should not be understated the importance of this factor - **WRONG**

✓ It should not be understated **how** important this factor is. (noun clause)

✓ It is the importance of this factor **that** shouldn't be understated. (noun clause)

✓ It is important **not to understate** the importance of this factor. (to infinitive phrase)

✓ It is **understating** the importance of this factor that should be avoided. (gerund clause)