

Accounts of abstract reference that derive from Frege, except of appealing to abstraction principles, are concerned with whether a term functions as a singular term in suitable true sentences and whether it is associated with a statement that gives identity conditions for the corresponding object. The aim of this paper is to clarify those three principles of abstract reference and the relations between them. I argue, moreover, that reflection on them brings to light a discriminating potential that the Fregean views have to offer - between cases where reference is successful and where it is not. The example that I use, of apparent reference that is, in fact, not successful, is that of fictional names.