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Making time for science ielts answers

We spend a third of our lives doing it. Napoleon, Florence Nightingale and Margaret Thatcher got by on four hours a night. Thomas Edison claimed it was waste of time. So why do we sleep? This is a question that has baffled scientists for centuries and the answer is, no one is really sure. Some believe that sleep gives the body a chance to recuperate from the day's activities but in reality, the amount of energy saved by sleeping for even eight hours is miniscule - about 50 kCal, the same amount of energy in a piece of toast. With continued lack of sufficient sleep, the part of the brain that controls language, memory, planning and sense of time is severely affected, practically shutting down. In fact, 17 hours of sustained wakefulness leads to a decrease in performance equivalent to a blood alcohol level of 0.05% (two glasses of wine). This is the legal drink driving limit in the UK. Research also shows that sleep-deprived individuals often have difficulty in responding to rapidly changing situations and making rational judgements. In real life situations, the consequences are grave and lack of sleep is said to have been a contributory factor to a number of international disasters such as Exxon Valdez, Chernobyl, Three Mile Island and the Challenger shuttle explosion. Sleep deprivation not only has a major impact on cognitive functioning but also on emotional and physical health. Disorders such as sleep apnoea which result in excessive daytime sleepiness have been linked to stress and high blood pressure. Research has also suggested that sleep loss may increase the risk of obesity because chemicals and hormones that play a key role in controlling appetite and weight gain are released during sleep. What happens when we sleep? What happens every time we get a bit of shut eye? Sleep occurs in a recurring cycle of 90 to 110 minutes and is divided into two categories: non-REM (which is further split into four stages) and REM sleep. Non-REM sleep Stage one: Light Sleep During the first stage of sleep, we're half awake and half asleep. Our muscle activity slows down and slight twitching may occur. This is a period of light sleep, meaning we can be awakened easily at this stage. Stage two: True Sleep Within ten minutes of light sleep, we enter stage two, which lasts around 20 minutes. The breathing pattern and heart rate start to slow down. This period accounts for the largest part of human sleep. Stages three and four: Deep Sleep During stage three, the brain begins to produce delta waves, a type of wave that is large (high amplitude) and slow (low frequency). Breathing and heart rate are at their lowest levels. Stage four is characterised by rhythmic breathing and limited muscle activity. If we are awakened during deep sleep we do not adjust immediately and often feel groggy and disoriented for several minutes after waking up. Some children experience bed-wetting, night terrors, or sleepwalking during this stage. REM sleep The first rapid eye movement (REM) period usually begins about 70 to 90 minutes after we fall asleep. We have around three to five REM episodes a night. Although we are not conscious, the brain is very active - often more so than when we are awake. This is the period when most dreams occur. Our eyes dart around (hence the name), our breathing rate and blood pressure rise. However, our bodies are effectively paralysed, said to be nature's way of preventing us from acting out our dreams. After REM sleep, the whole cycle begins again. How much sleep is required? There is no set amount of time that everyone needs to sleep, since it varies from person to person. Results from the sleep profiler indicate that people like to sleep anywhere between 5 and 11 hours, with the average being 7.75 hours. Jim Horne from Loughborough University's Sleep Research Centre has a simple answer though: "The amount of sleep we require is what we need not to be sleepy in the daytime." Even animals require varied amounts of sleep: Species Average total sleep time per day Python 18 hrs Tiger 15.8 hrs Cat 12.1 hrs Chimpanzee 9.7 hrs Sheep 3.8 hrs African elephant 3.3 hrs Giraffe 1.9 hr The current world record for the longest period without sleep is 11 days, set by Randy Gardner in 1965. Four days into the research, he began hallucinating. This was followed by a delusion where he thought he was a famous footballer. Surprisingly, Randy was actually functioning quite well at the end of his research and he could still beat the scientist at pinball. The IELTS Reading test consists of 40 questions, designed to test a wide range of reading skills. These include reading for gist, reading for main ideas, reading for detail, skimming, understanding logical argument and recognising writers' opinions, attitudes and purpose. You will get similar question types in both the IELTS General Training and Academic tests, however, the reading text topics are different. Managing your time in the test is important as you only have 60 minutes to answer 40 questions. It is always recommended to spend no more than 20 minutes on each part of the Reading test, however, if you find the first passage easy, you may finish it in a shorter time, allowing you more time to answer questions in the next two passages. The passages get harder as you move through the test, so make sure you keep enough time to tackle the final passage. The IELTS General Training Reading passages are extracts from materials that you can find on a day-to-day basis in an English-speaking country. The questions in this section will test your ability to understand content present in everyday materials such as: Newspapers Advertisements Handbooks Notices. To become more familiar with these text types, make use of our sample questions. By familiarising yourself with a range of texts and question types before test day, you will be able to manage your time better as you will be better prepared. The IELTS Academic test is used for university admissions and professional registrations around the world, so the questions in this section will test your ability to understand content present in academic materials. To prepare for test day, make sure you read a range of texts on different topics from: Books/Journals/Magazines/Newspapers/When you have experience with reading a range of different text types, you will be able to focus more on the questions linked to each text type. You can expect a variety of question types in the General and Academic Reading tests such as: Multiple choice/Identifying information/Identifying a writer's views/claims/Matching information/Matching headings/Matching features/Matching sentence endings/Sentence completion/Summary, note, table, flow-chart completion/Diagram label completion/Short-answer questions/To ensure you can accurately answer a range of question types in the 60 minutes, you will need to manage your time. Take a look at the following advice on how you can manage your time during the IELTS Reading test. Your Reading test will have 3 different reading passages. You can quickly skim through the entire passage to understand the gist. Do not spend time reading every sentence in detail as this can be time consuming and unnecessary. Focus on headings, sub headings and look for main points that describe the passage. This will help later with finding answers. Pay attention to the introduction and conclusion. The author's point of view is often expressed in the introduction and conclusion. You can answer most questions correctly when you read these two sections of the reading passage. Skim through the body of the passage after you thoroughly go through the introduction and conclusion. Identify key words/ a key word will help you identify the concept associated with the passage. Identify these key words and underline or highlight them when you skim through the passage. This can help you answer most questions that follow the passage. Read all questions before you begin answering. Before you begin answering, have a quick look at all the questions first. Remember that questions appear in groups of 3, or 4, or more, so read that group of questions before studying the text. Make sure to highlight the key information words in your questions and since you have already skimmed through the passage and identified key words, it will make it easier to find your answers. Answer every question Remember to answer every question even if you cannot find the answer or option. If you are running out of time, remember that you will not lose a mark if the answer is wrong, so make an educated guess and you may get the answer right. Check your answers. Checking your answers can help you improve your IELTS Reading score. Make sure that you answer all the questions and allocate at least 20 minutes for checking. You can use the practice materials available on our website and time yourself to perfection. The IELTS Reading section can be intimidating for test takers however, prior preparation and time management can make the difference between an average score and a great one. This Guide to IELTS Reading begins by covering some basic IELTS Reading information so you can become familiar with the test. However, this post mostly focuses on IELTS Reading practice tests, strategies, and tips to help you perform better. Whether you started preparing for the IELTS only recently, or you're familiar with the exam already, this guide will give you the information and strategies you need to push your score even higher. If you're struggling to get the results you want on the IELTS Reading paper, you're definitely not the only one. Many people find IELTS Reading to be very tough. The vocabulary alone is difficult, not to mention the wide variety of question types IELTS uses to measure your skills. Try not to get discouraged. Instead, get to work! Smart and consistent preparation can really pay off on IELTS Reading. Table of Contents IELTS Reading: The Basics There are two versions of the IELTS exam: Academic and General Training. If you don't know already which version you need to take, check with the institution(s) to which you plan to apply. The Reading and Writing sections (but not Speaking and Listening) are quite different between the two formats. You don't want to prepare for the wrong one! The Academic and General Training Reading papers do share some features. For example, both take 60 minutes and contain 40 questions. Also, even though the Reading passages are quite different between the two exams, the strategy for answering questions is actually very similar. This is because the question types are generally the same on both versions. However, the Academic and General Training Reading exams differ in some important ways. Let's take a look at their unique features, among with some official IELTS questions for both versions of the test, so you can get a sense of what to expect. IELTS Reading: Academic Academic IELTS Reading passages cover a wide range of subjects, such as science, history, the environment, etc. You do not need to be an expert in any of these fields. However, test-takers with a large vocabulary have a huge advantage. Academic IELTS Reading passages may contain some technical terms and even visual materials such as charts and graphs. IELTS commonly uses passages from professional and academic journals, textbooks, reports, and newspapers. The Academic Reading paper consists of three passages. For each one, you will answer 10-14 questions. Here are some sample Reading passages and questions from the British Council (the makers of the IELTS exam) so you can see what Academic Reading passages and questions look like. Try to answer the questions and see how you do! IELTS Reading: General Training Like Academic Reading, General Training Reading also includes articles from journals, newspapers and magazines. However, the majority of the passages are much shorter, with simpler vocabulary. Additionally, the topics tend to relate to daily life. Some passages, especially towards the beginning of the General Training Reading paper, are taken from advertisements, guidebooks, magazines, notices, or employee manuals. While each version of General Training IELTS Reading can be slightly different, you can generally expect that the exam will get more and more challenging from beginning to end. In Section 1, there will be 2 to 3 very short (and relatively simple) articles related to everyday life topics. In Section 2, there will be two short texts. These are often related to work in some way, such as a job application or company handbook. Finally, Section 3 will contain a longer text discussing a more academic or abstract topic. This is the toughest article on the General Training Reading exam. For more information about the types of topics you might see, check out our blog post on General Training Reading passages. For practice, here are some reading sample tests from British Council for the General Training IELTS exam. Try to answer the questions and see how you do. Section 1, Section 2 and Section 3. IELTS Reading Practice Tests and Resources Apart from taking practice tests, you should be reading English regularly as you prepare for the IELTS. Definitely don't limit yourself to IELTS practice materials. Reading English newspapers and magazines is an excellent way to develop your comprehension. In fact, many IELTS reading passages are selected from these sources. Here is a list of resources you can use to develop your English reading abilities. These materials are all very appropriate for IELTS reading samples. New Scientist, New Scientist is an international science magazine from UK. Some New Scientist articles, such as one called Flawed Beauty: the Problem with Toughened Glass, can be found in Cambridge IELTS books and past IELTS exams. Scientific American and American Scientist: Scientific American and American Scientist are two popular American science magazines. They also include health and education articles, which are very similar to IELTS Academic Reading passages. What is more, Scientific American offers hundreds of 60-second science podcasts, which are great for IELTS listening practice! BBC News: Get the latest news from different parts of the world in English. There are many kinds of reading materials on BBC News that work great for IELTS prep. The Economist: The Economist is another common source for IELTS reading passages. Many articles from past exams were taken from this magazine. National Geographic: National Geographic contains articles about geography, animals, culture, the environment, travel and adventure, which are common topics for both the Academic and General Training Reading exams. History Extra and History Net: History Extra and History Net are two great history magazine websites with podcasts, articles and reviews on a variety of events. IELTS Reading Tips: Keys to Success All of the information in this section applies to both the Academic and General Training IELTS Reading exams. Let's start with some important keys to success: Pacing Pacing is critical in order to do well on the IELTS Reading paper. This is especially true for the Academic IELTS, but it also applies to the General Training Reading exam. Sixty minutes is not a lot of time to get through all of the passages and answer 40 questions. Since each question is worth the same amount of points (1), it makes most sense to divide the 3 sections equally—spending 20 minutes per section. Instead of reading each passage carefully, it works much better for most people to "skim" the Reading passages. This is something we will discuss in detail in the "Strategy" section of this post below. I advise my students to spend 3 to 5 minutes quickly skimming the passage before looking at the questions. That leaves 15 to 17 minutes to study the questions and find answers in the text. Note: Unlike the Listening exam, you do not have an extra 10 minutes to transfer answers from your Test Booklet to your Answer Sheet. On the Reading paper, you need to record all of your final answers on the Answer Sheet within 60 minutes. Reaching those ideal pacing targets takes focus and strategy. For a look at strategies that can help you answer questions efficiently, see Kuangyan's blog article on pacing tips for IELTS Reading. Scoring Scoring is fairly simple on the Reading section. Each question is worth 1 point, so you can achieve a "raw" score of up to 40 points. From there, IELTS converts your "raw" score into your Band score. You can find a basic band score conversion table on the official IELTS website. However, keep in mind that each version of the IELTS is slightly different. The tables can give you a general idea about how "raw" Reading scores are converted to band scores. It is also important to keep in mind that the hardest questions and the easiest questions count equally towards your final Reading score. Therefore, if you're struggling to finish all of the questions within 60 minutes, make sure you're not losing out on easier points because you get stuck on hard questions. Sometimes, you simply won't understand a question or a segment within a passage fully. Other times, no matter how hard you try, you won't find an answer in the text. If this happens, just make your best guess and move on so you don't miss out on easier points later in the test! You can always return to a difficult question later if you have spare time at the end. Vocabulary The more vocabulary you know, the easier the IELTS Reading exam will be for you. Vocabulary is very, very important if you're aiming for a high Band score. As you prepare for the exam, make sure to study new words regularly. Your goal should be to learn 15 to 20 new words each day. Also, try to read in English regularly (15 to 20 minutes per day at least). It's an excellent idea to keep a vocabulary journal as you read. Record new and unfamiliar words, and then define each one with a synonym or short definition. Keep it simple. You should return to your list a few times each week to review, focusing attention on terms you have difficulty remembering. Additionally, Magoosh offers a Vocabulary Flashcard app and a Vocabulary PDF word list for the IELTS. (Bonus: They're both free!) No matter how you prefer to review vocabulary, study a little bit every day! Focus on the Directions Attention to detail is very important on the IELTS Reading paper. Unfortunately, too many test-takers lose points unnecessarily because they don't pay close attention to the directions. The directions for each task will tell you how to mark answers on your Answer Sheet. For example, some questions require numerals (i, ii, iii, iv, v, etc), while others require letters (A, B, C, etc). Short Answer questions are even more complicated. The directions may say something like, "Choose NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS from the passage." Each set of questions will have its own instructions telling you how to mark your answers. As you practice, get into the habit of looking at these instructions every time. You don't want to miss points because you didn't notice a key detail in the directions. IELTS Reading Tips: Strategy The IELTS Reading exam is probably different than the English reading tests you've taken in school. Most of the time, reading exams involve carefully reading a passage from beginning to end, and then answering comprehension questions about it. In theory, this is also what you should do on the IELTS Reading paper. In practice, this approach doesn't work very well for most people. The reason is simple—there simply isn't enough time in the IELTS Reading paper to read each passage slowly and carefully AND answer all of the questions. This is especially true on the Academic IELTS, where you only have 60 minutes to read 3 long and complex passages. On the General Training IELTS, it may be possible to read each passage carefully if you are a proficient reader. Nevertheless, I still recommend a different approach. Try these strategies as you practice: Strategy 1: Skim each passage for 3 to 5 minutes before looking at the questions. Learning to skim a passage effectively can save you a lot of time. To skim, simply look over each paragraph quickly, but in a strategic way. You should read the first line or two of each paragraph normally, but then you should go over the rest much faster. As you skim, you're trying to notice words that stand out because they seem important. This helps you to get the "gist" or the basic sense of each paragraph. The ultimate goal of skimming is to notice things in the text that will help you answer questions. You may find people's names, or important dates. You may also figure out how a passage is organized. For example, imagine you are reading a historical text. Often, historical passages are organized chronologically. From the beginning of a time period to the end. Skimming effectively will help you to notice this organizational pattern, and this knowledge will most likely help you to find answers to questions more quickly. Any time you get a question that includes a date or time reference, you'll know where to look because you've skimmed the passage effectively. Here is a summary of the key skimming techniques you should master: Notice the title of the passage. It often gives you a general idea about the main idea of the text. Read the first sentence or two of each paragraph. Often, this is where the main idea of each paragraph is located. Underline words that stand out to you as important (or highlight the words onscreen if you are taking the computer-delivered IELTS). This will help you get a general idea of what is being talked about. Pick out words that have something in common (i.e., airports, passengers, lounge, fly). Ignore words that you do not know. Focusing on words that are unfamiliar to you will slow you down. At all times, try not to get caught up in the detail when you skim! Below is an extract from an IELTS Reading passage. Some of the words are in bold after applying the techniques above. This can help you see how the key information jumps off the page when you incorporate skimming. Now try it yourself! Just read the bold parts and ignore everything else. Can you tell what the passage is mainly about? Could you take a guess at the main idea of each paragraph? Strategies 2 and 3: As you skim, underline or highlight keywords in the text and write short notes as reminders in the text. Strategies 2 and 3 work together with the skimming strategy above. Basically, the goal of "underlining" and taking "notes" as you skim is that this helps you remember what you learned when you go to answer questions. It's very simple. Here's what you should do: As you skim, quickly underline or highlight each word that seems important in your Question Booklet (which contains your Reading passage). In other words, don't just skim with your eyes. Use your pencil or the highlight function (if taking the computer IELTS) to underline or highlight things that stand out as you skim the passage. Secondly, as you skim, quickly write very short notes (2-5 words) next to each paragraph with your best guess about the main idea of that paragraph. You don't have to be comprehensive or even 100% right about your "guess" in order for it to be useful. To be sure, if you had time to read the paragraph carefully, you could almost certainly come up with very good and accurate summary notes. But you might be surprised how close you can come to the main idea of each paragraph just from skimming. Again, this technique works for both the paper-based and computer delivered IELTS; on the computerized IELTS, there's actually an onscreen note-taking function. For example, take another look at the IELTS Reading passage from Strategy 1: Just by focusing on the words in bold, could you write a few notes next to both paragraphs with your best guess about each one's main idea? Try it, and then look at the examples provided immediately below. Here are some example notes: For paragraph B: Amount of helium in Atmosphere For paragraph C: Uses of Helium These simple notes can be incredibly valuable. Many questions ask you to find the main idea of a paragraph, like you must do for "Matching Headings" questions (which we'll look at closely later in this post). Your underlined or highlighted words and notes can even help you with detail questions by providing clues about where to search for answers in the text. Strategy 4: Study the questions, noting keywords, and SCAN the text strategically for answers After you've thoroughly skimmed the text, you're ready to turn to the questions. Each question type is slightly different, so you'll have to vary your approach in some ways for each new set of questions. However, the strategy discussed in this section applies to them all. The basic concept is simple: First, read the questions carefully and look for keywords. Then, you scan the passage for answers. When you look for keywords in the questions, you should underline or highlight the most important ones. This may sound like a lot of extra work, but it really shouldn't require a lot of time. As you read, simply use your pencil to mark up the questions. These keywords provide the concepts for which you'll need to search in the passage. As you're probably aware, IELTS questions almost never use the same language as the actual reading passage (except for incorrect answer choices!). Instead, the questions will be paraphrases of information found in the article. This is one way the IELTS tests your vocabulary. Paraphrases will be synonyms or different forms of words found in the text. A paraphrase could also be an entire sentence that conveys the same meaning as a sentence in the passage, while using different words and sentence structures. When you underline or highlight keywords in the questions, you're identifying the IDEAS you need to search for in the passage. Use a strategic approach when you scan the reading passage for answers. It's best to begin with questions that have keywords you think you can find easily in the text. When you answer questions that are "easy" to locate, you will learn a little more about what is contained in the Reading passage because you had to read some segments closely to confirm your answers. This process continues with each question you answer. It is possible (and fairly common!) to find an answer to a different question than the one you're searching for at that moment. What makes one question easier to scan for in the text than another? Perhaps a question stands out to you because you remember seeing the topic in the text when you skimmed, underlined or highlighted, and took notes at the very beginning. But there are some other things that can make an answer easier to find by scanning. For example, numbers and proper nouns like names or locations often stand out visually in a text. A date like 1950, and the names Jane Smith and New York City would be very easy to locate among other words. Once you find the words you're looking for, read the surrounding sentences carefully to find the answer to your question. IELTS Reading: Question Types and IELTS Reading Samples There are several types of questions you may encounter on the IELTS Reading paper. The descriptions and tips below will help you understand each one. Make sure to study the official practice questions as well! Whenever possible, both Academic IELTS and General Training IELTS examples are included. Multiple Choice This is a traditional question type with which you are probably very familiar. You will be asked to select the correct answer to a question from a set of choices. IELTS Reading Multiple Choice questions can test a variety of things. Some will focus on details, while others focus on main ideas. As with other question types, you should look for keywords in the questions and the answer choices before you scan the passage for answers. IELTS Academic Reading Sample: Multiple Choice True/False/Not Given True/False/Not Given questions can be very tricky. These questions consist of several statements. You need to decide whether each one is TRUE according to the passage. This means that the information in the question statement agrees with information in the text. However, if the question statement contradicts something found in the passage, you must mark the answer FALSE. A third option is also possible. If the information in the question statement cannot be found in the article (the article does not say whether the statement is true or false), you must mark NOT GIVEN. This is tough! It is very easy to waste a lot of time searching for something that is, in fact, not there. Try your best not to spend excessive time on these questions. If you can't find an answer after you've searched for it thoroughly in the article, mark NOT GIVEN and move on. You don't want to lose easier points because you spent too much time looking for an answer that might not be there at all. For more tips on tackling this question type, check out our article on how to answer True/False/Not Given questions. IELTS General Training Reading Sample: True/False/Not Given Yes/No/Not Given questions are almost exactly the same as True/False/Not Given questions. The difference is that they focus on ideas, not facts. Yes/No/Not Given questions are common for reading passages that present an author's opinions or perspectives. Your job will be to say whether the statements in the questions agree (YES) or disagree (NO) with what the author states in the essay. If the information isn't discussed directly, you must answer NOT GIVEN. Matching There are a few types of Matching questions on the IELTS Reading paper. Each one has its own unique features. Matching Headings This type of question asks you to match a list of "headings" to each paragraph in the passage. A correct heading captures the main idea of one paragraph in the text. Usually, there are some extra headings in your list which do not work with any of the paragraphs. These extra headings typically do not represent the text accurately, or (commonly!) they represent a minor idea found within one of the paragraphs. To get a headings question correct, you must find the heading that articulates the main idea of a paragraph. Sometimes, you can find the main idea in the first sentence or two. This is definitely a good place to look first. But don't stop reading after the first two sentences as you try to answer these questions. Scan the remainder of each paragraph to confirm that the heading represents everything contained in the paragraph in a general way. Our article on tackling Matching Headings questions offers some additional information on these question types. IELTS Academic Reading Sample: Matching Headings IELTS General Training Reading Sample: Matching Headings Matching Information This type of question asks you to match information from a list with one of the paragraphs in the passage. Matching Information questions can be very tricky because you need to search for details. To answer them correctly, you need to find the paragraph that contains the information presented in the question. As always, this information will be paraphrased, so don't look for the exact wording in the text. Search for the same idea. IELTS Academic Reading Sample: Matching Information IELTS General Training Reading Sample: Matching Information Matching Features This type of matching question presents you with a list of items in a box. These items will be categorized in some way. For example, they may be the names of people or cities. Of course, each item will be mentioned in the reading passage as well. Your job is to match phrases or sentences in the questions with the appropriate items listed in the box. If the box includes a list of people mentioned in the article, then the questions may ask you to match statements with the person who said them. Frequently, some choices in the box will not relate to any of the questions, and some choices will be used more than once. The directions will always tell you whether you may use an answer choice more than one time. Try to scan the passage for answers to each question, rather than trying to eliminate the items in the box to direct your scanning. This is because some answer choices in the box may not relate to any of the questions, you might waste a lot of time scanning for information that doesn't answer any of your questions. IELTS Academic Reading Sample: Matching Features IELTS General Training Reading Sample: Matching Features Matching Sentence Endings For these questions, you will have to match two halves of a sentence. The question will provide the first part of the sentence. You will have to select an appropriate ending to the sentence from a list of options. Like other matching questions, it is common to have extra answer choices that do not answer any of the questions. Keep in mind, correct answers must be grammatically correct, make sense logically, agree with the information in the reading passage. Sometimes, you can easily determine that a few answer choices won't work with some of the questions because they create ungrammatical or illogical sentences when combined. However, this only works to eliminate a few combinations. To get the correct answer, you will have to search for information in the text to confirm that your combined sentence agrees with the passage. An important feature of these questions is that the answers will come in order in the passage. In other words, if you find an answer to question 3 first, you will know that the answers to questions 1 and 2 will be found somewhere before the information for question 3 in the passage. This can be incredibly helpful if you're confident you've found correct answers to a few questions! It can help you locate more difficult answers. IELTS Academic Reading Sample: Matching Sentence Endings Sentence Completion and Short Answer Sentence Completion questions and Short Answer questions are very similar. Sentence Completion questions ask you to fill in a blank at the end of a sentence with some words taken from the text. Short Answer questions also require you to choose some words from the text for your answer, but the words you need to fill in aren't located at the end of a sentence. Typically, you simply need to answer a question about the text for regular Short Answer questions. It is very important to read the directions carefully each time. The directions will state a word limit. For example, they will say you should write "NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS and/or a NUMBER" for your answer. Some questions limit you to ONE or TWO words. If you exceed the limit, you will miss the question, so pay close attention to word limits. On these questions, the answers will come in order in the passage. When you find a correct answer, you'll know that the answer to the next question will come later in the text. IELTS General Training Reading Sample: Sentence Completion IELTS General Training Reading Sample: Short Answer Note, Table, Diagram, or Summary Completion This type of question asks you to complete a set of notes, a table, a diagram, or a summary with information from the text. Sometimes, this will be a Short Answer question. Other times, you will choose from a set of answers in a box or from a list. Very often, the answers to these questions can be found in one portion of the reading passage, so it is very likely you won't have to scan the entire text to fill in the necessary information. Diagram label completion questions are usually associated with hard sciences, especially biology. On the exam, you'll often label the body parts of an animal, a diagram of an ecosystem, or other biology-related infographics. IELTS Academic Reading Sample: Table Completion IELTS Academic Reading Sample: Diagram Completion IELTS General Training Reading Sample: Flow-Chart Completion Additional Resources for IELTS Reading Practice Studying for the IELTS Writing Task 1 and IELTS Writing Task 2 are here to help you prepare for this difficult portion of the exam. Finally, depending on how much time you have before exam day, this one-month IELTS study schedule can help you stay organized. If your time is more limited, get to work with a one-week IELTS study schedule! Good luck with your IELTS preparation, and happy studying! To view all of our our Magoosh IELTS Reading posts, take a look at the list below: IELTS Reading: Academic & General Training

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