

TIPS FOR THE READING SECTION IELTS /TOEFL

Study Skills – Assessment and Exam Preparation

The IELTS exam has a range of question types in the Reading Section. Knowing what to expect and what tips and techniques are useful for each question can help you get a better score.

MATCHING HEADING TO PARAGRAPHS

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| 1. SKIM THE WHOLE TEXT (READ QUICKLY NOT IN DETAIL) AND DO NOT READ THE HEADINGS YET. |
| 2. IGNORE UNKNOWN VOCABULARY WHEN READING. |
| 3. PAY ATTENTION AND MENTALLY HIGHLIGHT KEYWORDS (CONTENT WORDS)-REMEMBER YOU ARE LOOKING FOR MAIN IDEAS NOT FOR SPECIFIC VOCABULARY- |
| 4. READ THE FIRST AND THE LAST SENTENCES CAREFULLY (IN DETAIL). |
| 5. IN A SENTENCE PARAPHRASE OR SUMMARIZE THE MAIN IDEA OF EACH PARAGRAPH. |
| 6. HAVE A LOOK AT THE DIFFERENT HEADINGS THAT THEY GIVE YOU. |
| 7. COMPARE THEM TO YOURS AND TRY MATCHING THEM. -REMEMBER YOU WILL END UP WITH AN EXTRA HEADING. THIS IS A DISTRACTOR.- |

MULTIPLE CHOICE

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| 1. SKIM THE WHOLE TEXT (READ QUICKLY NOT IN DETAIL). |
| 2. FIND THE MAIN IDEA OF THE TEXT. |
| 3. PAY ATTENTION AND MENTALLY HIGHLIGHT KEYWORDS (CONTENT WORDS). |
| 4. FIND THE CONTENT WORD (THE MOST IMPORTANT WORD) IN THE QUESTION AND LOOK FOR THE WORD OR A SYNONYM OF IT IN THE TEXT. |
| 4. SKAN THE WHOLE TEXT (LOOK FOR THE SPECIFIC WORD, NUMBER, OR PIECE OF INFORMATION THAT THEY ARE ASKING FOR IN THE QUESTION). |
| 4. REMEMBER THE DISTRACTOR (FALSE ANSWER OF A QUESTION.) WILL ALWAYS BE IN THE SAME PARAGRAPH WHERE THE CORRECT ANSWER IS. |



FINDING SPECIFIC INFORMATION

1. SKIM THE WHOLE TEXT (READ QUICKLY NOT IN DETAIL).
2. PAY ATTENTION AND MENTALLY HIGHLIGHT KEYWORDS (CONTENT WORDS).
3. FIND THE CONTENT WORD (THE MOST IMPORTANT WORD) IN THE QUESTION (PROBABLY NUMBERS OR NAMES)
3. SKAN THE WHOLE TEXT (LOOK FOR THE SPECIFIC WORD, NUMBER, OR PIECE OF INFORMATION THAT THEY ARE ASKING FOR IN THE QUESTION).
4. READ IN DETAIL THE PARAGRAPH WHERE YOU FOUND THE SPECIFIC PIECE OF INFORMATION YOU WERE SEARCHING FOR.

YES/NO/NOT GIVEN

1.SKIM THE WHOLE TEXT (READ QUICKLY NOT IN DETAIL).
2. PAY ATTENTION AND MENTALLY HIGHLIGHT KEYWORDS (CONTENT WORDS)-REMEMBER YOU ARE LOOKING FOR MAIN IDEAS NOT FOR SPECIFIC VOCABULARY.
3. FIND THE CONTENT WORD (THE MOST IMPORTANT WORD) IN THE QUESTION.
4. SKAN THE WHOLE TEXT (LOOK FOR THE WORD OR A SYNONYM OF IT IN THE TEXT.

REFERENCES:

- http://www.examenglish.com/IELTS/IELTS_academic_reading1.htm
- <http://www.ielts-exam.net/ielts-tips.htm>