



**PINES** ACADEMY  
INTERNATIONAL



# IELTS

GUARANTEE

## READING

Academic

# 5.5

## Reading General Tips

1. **Develop skills of each type of question in reading.** There are around 14 different types of questions and you need to find a strategy to tackle each one. Some question types have answers that come in order and others do not. This type of information will help you not only save time but also locate the right answers.
2. **Skimming and Scanning:** Skimming is reading a passage to get a general idea of the content. This is recommended to do before you tackle the questions. All types of questions, except one, are given after the passage because it is recommended to skim read the passage before the questions. This does not mean you try to understand the passage. It's just a chance to get a sense of the topic and content. You should skim read the full passage in between 2 to 3 minutes. At the same time, you should underline any key words you see. The only question types which comes before the passage is matching headings, for that question you don't need to read the passage first. Scanning is your ability to locate information quickly and has no relation to comprehension of the passage.
3. **Develop your speed reading skills.** You must develop speed reading skills to be able to find your answers quickly. This means you must be able to scan the passage quickly to locate information.
4. **Don't try to understand the full passage.** Locate answers only. Most questions test your ability to locate specific information given to you and then to comprehend the sentence or sentences which contain that information. There are only two types of questions which will require a more detailed understanding of the whole passage- matching headings and choosing a title. All other questions are based on locating information.
5. **Developing vocabulary.** Learning vocabulary is not just about learning the meaning of a word, it is about learning when you can and can't use a word. It is also about what collocations can be used with words, for example verbs and match nouns. You should write words lists that include common paraphrases and also common traps. You can do this by learning vocabulary from practice reading passages.
6. **Key words.** You should learn to spot key words and use them correctly. You should also check whether the key words can be paraphrased. Some key words are obvious, for instance names, dates, places etc. other key words are more subtle.
7. **Grammar.** Question types such as summary completion and sentence completion require that the sentence is grammatically correct when you have put the answer in. This means that grammar can help you to spot the right answer.
8. **Practice makes perfect.**
9. **Getting used to difficult passages.** If you have time before your test, you should be widening your reading skills and familiarity of complicated passages on a range of topics. Read the BC news, the new scientist, the economist etc.
10. **IELTS Practice Reading Test.** You should use IELTS practice reading tests for two purposes:
  - a. To develop your skills, practice different types of questions and enhance your vocabulary.
  - b. To test yourself under exam conditions to check your score and check if you have developed or not.
11. **GT Test.** The first two passages in the GT test are different to the academic test but the third passage is similar. To practice the first two types of reading passages, you can practice reading materials such as instructional manuals, schedules and employment terms.
12. **Know your weakness.** You must check the reasons why you are getting your answers wrong or right. If you are getting answers wrong due to your understanding of the passage, then you must improve your English language. If you are getting your answers wrong because you couldn't find the information or you didn't understand the question or you ran out of time, then the problem is your technique and strategies. Spend time reviewing your performance.

## Chapter 2: Question Types

### 1. Sentence Completion

- **Task:** Completing sentences or phrases and completing a summary by filling in the gap with words from the passage or words given in a box (for summary completion question).
- **Skills:**
  - scanning for specific information in the passage
  - understanding idea or information
  - selecting appropriate words
- **Tips:**
  - identify the word needed for each gap (noun/verb/adjective. etc)
  - locate the information in the passage in order to choose the right word
  - check how many words can be used for each answer
  - **answers usually come in order**
  - sentences or summary must be grammatically correct which can help you in choosing the right word for the gap

**Example:**

#### Questions 1-3

Complete the sentences below with words taken from the reading passage. Write **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** for each answer.

#### Questions 1-3

Complete the sentences below with words taken from the reading passage. Write **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** for each answer.

1. To make a \_\_\_\_\_ you should study your options as well.
2. You shouldn't choose a position simply because it has \_\_\_\_\_.
3. You might want to do more studies to improve your \_\_\_\_\_.

**Practice:****A.****THE WAR ON SMOKING**

Make no mistake, the move to introduce plain packaging is just the latest front in the war against smoking. Over the past decade, there has been a ban on smoking in public places and moves to restrict displays in shops. But one of the issues that has been concerning health experts and ministers is the number of people who continue to take up smoking, particularly young people.

More than 2000,000 under 16s start in the UK each year – helping ensure a viable market remains for manufacturers once the number of people quitting and dying is taken into account. In countries like the UK where there is a ban on advertising, the pack remains the last major vehicle for promotion. Hence the detail and care taken in the design of the packets with their laminated and special print effects foil decorations and slide openings and beveled edges. It should come as no surprise therefore to learn that they have become known as the “silent salesman” and “mobile billboard” within the industry. They are that important.

**Questions 1 – 4**

Complete the sentences. Choose **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** from the passage for each answer.

1. The most recent development in the war against smoking is to establish \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The large number of new smokers, particularly under 16's, makes certain that cigarette companies will always have a \_\_\_\_\_.
3. In some countries, packaging is the only method that cigarette companies have for \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Packets are seen as being the \_\_\_\_\_ in the cigarette industry.

**B.**

The Blombos Cave Discovery is the earliest-known example of a pigment-or paint-producing workshop. All of the materials were discovered at the same site, and they included an array of raw materials including samples of bone and charcoal, as well as pigment-producing equipment such as grindstones and hammerstones. Judging by the equipment, which shows signs of wear, Henshilwood and his team were able to deduce the process used to produce the ochre mixture.

First, the pieces of ochre were rubbed on quartzite slabs and crushed to produce a red powder. This was combined with ground-up mammal bone, the traces of which signs that was heated before being ground. The ochre powder and the bone pieces were mixed with charcoal, stone chip, quartz grains and liquid (perhaps water) and was then transferred to abalone shells to be gently stirred before being ready for application.