

BRITISH COUNCIL - IELTS Reading Test

Time management is vital in the reading test, so don't spend too long on any one question, skip it and go back later if you have time.



40 • questions
3 • articles
60 • minutes

• read instructions carefully

• write the correct letter A - F on your answer sheet



no additional time to transfer answers

• different question types

as you proceed through the test

Don't spend more than 20 minutes on each article.

Start by getting a general overview of the article. **VERY QUICKLY**, highlight topic sentences or headings so you know what each paragraph is generally about. Do not read in detail at this stage.



be clear what you are looking for

It is vital you read quickly. So read the questions and be clear what exactly you are looking for - is it a name, a number, or an opinion?

tips to prepare practice reading skills

skimming
identify key themes or general ideas

paying attention to:

- titles
- subtitles
- keywords
- topic sentences



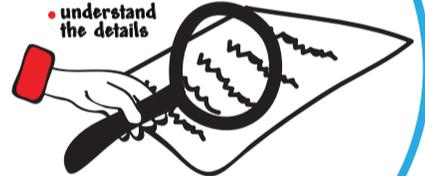
scanning
looking for specific information

• don't need to read every word in the article

Don't read by running your finger or a pen along the words - this is a sign you are reading too slowly. Use the relevant reading skills - depending on whatever it is you need to find to answer the question.

intensive reading

• understand the details



to improve your reading skills

To improve your reading, read as much as you can. Anything you read in English is good practice.

• read as much as you can
• read quickly
• the more variety the better



Try to enjoy reading in English. You will improve with practice and persistence.



You will find useful and interesting articles with both text and audio, along with associated tasks and questions at:

<http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/magazine>

For more information:

Speaking
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