TOEFL iBT® Online Prep Course About

Reading





Continue

At the end of the Reading section, you will be asked either a **complete-the-summary question** or a **complete-the-chart** question. These questions can be complex. The Educational Testing Service (ETS) calls them "reading to learn" questions because they require you to

- · comprehend most or all of the passage
- · distinguish major from minor details
- · link key information to other ideas in the passage
- · synthesize the information by summarizing or classifying it in a chart

Complete-the-summary and complete-the-chart questions demand more time to answer and are worth more points than other types of questions in the Reading Section.

TOEFL iBT® Online Prep Course About

Reading

Back



Reading > Lesson 8: Completing Summaries/Charts

Close

Complete-the-Summary Questions

How to Answer Complete-the-Summary Questions

Scoring for Complete-the-Summary Questions

Tips for Answering Complete-the-Summary Questions

Sample Passage with Complete-the Summary Question

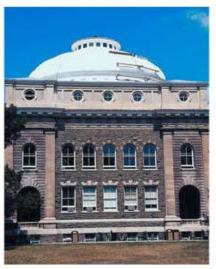
Complete-the-Chart Questions

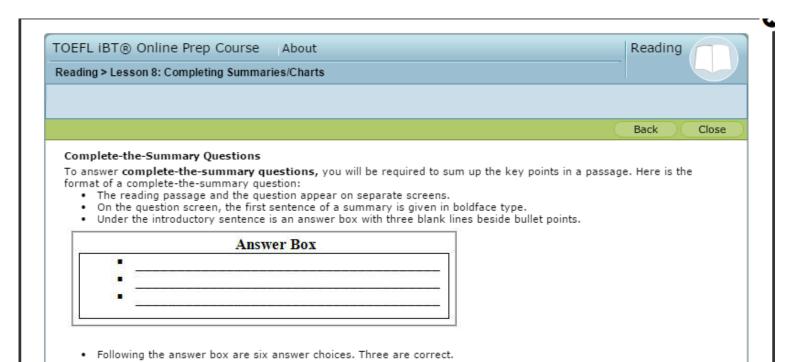
How to Answer Complete-the-Chart Questions

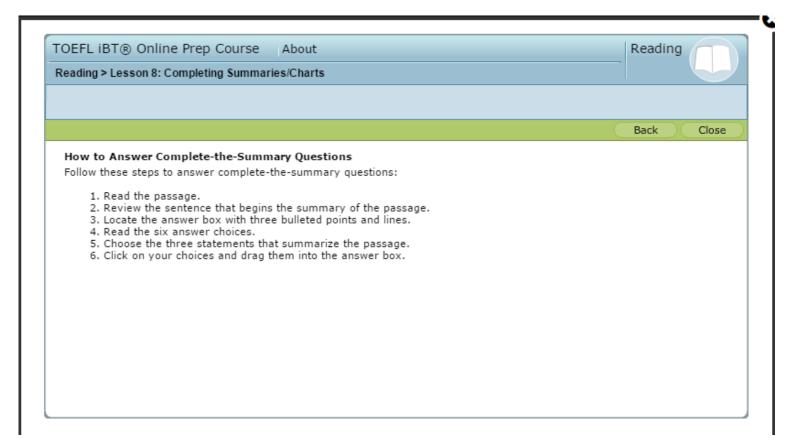
Scoring for Complete-the-Chart Questions

Tips for Answering Complete-the-Chart Questions

Sample Passage with Complete-the-Chart Question





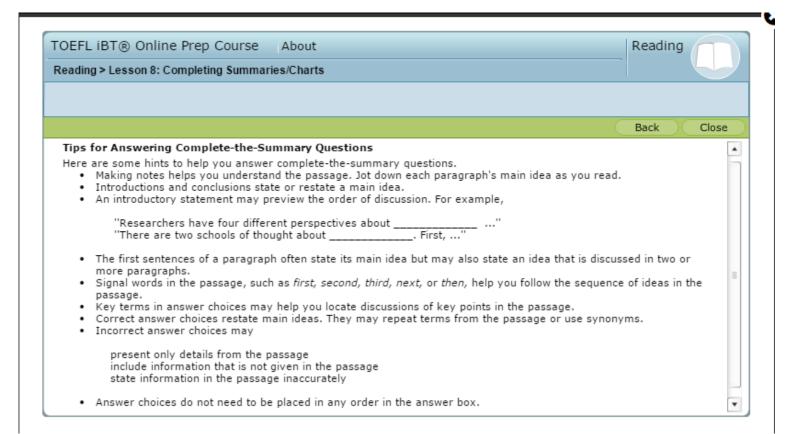




Scoring for Complete-the-Summary Questions

You can earn up to 2 points for a complete-the-summary question. Below is a chart showing the number of correct answers and their point values:

Number of Correct Answers	Number of Points Awarded
3	2
2	1
Less than 2	0





Reading > Lesson 8: Completing Summaries/Charts

Back

Close

Sample Passage with Complete-the-Summary Question

Here is a sample reading passage and complete-the-summary question. Following the passage and question are examples and explanations.

Literary Fiction and Plot

The plot of literary fiction explores one or more conflicts, moving from exposition through complications to climax and, finally, to resolution

During exposition, the writer presents basic information readers need to understand the events that follow. Typically, the exposition sets the story in motion: it establishes the scene, introduces major characters, and suggests major events or conflicts to come. An exposition can be stated in a single sentence or a chapter. For example, the opening sentence of Amy Tan's short story "Two Kinds"—"My mother believed you could be anything you wanted to be in America"—reveals an important trait of a central character, while in John Updike's story "A&P," a more fully developed exposition section establishes setting, introduces main characters, and suggests possible conflicts.

Plot consists of carefully selected events that occur in an arranged order in the structure of a story. The events and their order often reveal or reinforce ideas about character. Many sequences are possible as the writer manipulates events to create interest, suspense, confusion, wonder, or some other effect. Chronological order presents each event in the sequence in which it actually takes place. In relatively modern fiction, writers often experiment with order: events may occur out of expected order, in no apparent order, or, as in William Faulkner's short story "A Rose for Emily," may begin at the end and flash back to reconstruct events that lead up to the end or final outcome.

Flashbacks and foreshadowing are two common devices of plotting. A flashback presents an event or situation that occurred before the time in which the current action takes place, such as in Faulkner's story. Flashbacks are valuable because they can substitute for or supplement formal exposition by presenting necessary background. One disadvantage of flashbacks is that, by interrupting the natural flow of events, they may be intrusive or distracting. An advantage of flashbacks is that they can reveal events gradually and subtly either obscure or explain causal links if the writer wishes to do so. Foreshadowing is the introduction early in a story of situations, events, characters, or objects that hint at things to come. Typically, a seemingly simple element—a chance remark, a natural occurrence, a trivial event—is eventually revealed to have great significance. For example, a storm in Shakespeare's Othello foreshadows the personal turmoil the hero Othello is about to experience. Foreshadowing hints at what is to come, so that readers only gradually become aware of a particular detail's role in a story. Thus, foreshadowing helps readers sense what will occur and grow increasingly involved as they see the likelihood of a particular outcome.

As the plot progresses, the story's conflict unfolds through a series of complications that eventually lead readers to the story's climax. As it develops, the story may include several crises. A crisis is a peak in the story's action, a moment of considerable tension or importance. The climax is the point of greatest tension or importance, the scene that presents a story's decisive action or event.

The final stage of plot, the *resolution*, or *dénouement* (French for "untying of the knot"), draws the action to a close and accounts for all remaining loose ends. In literary fiction of the past, this resolution was sometimes achieved by *deus ex machina* (Latin for "a god from a machine"), an intervention of some force or agent previously <u>extraneous</u> to the story—for example, the sudden arrival of a long-lost relative or an unexpected inheritance, the discovery of a character's true identity, or a last-minute rescue by a character not previously introduced. Usually, however, in modern fiction the resolution is more plausible: all the events lead logically and convincingly to the resolution. Sometimes the ending of a story is indefinite—that is, readers are not quite sure what the <u>protagonist</u> will do or what will happen next. This kind of resolution mirrors the complexity of life, where closure rarely occurs, and often motivates readers to understand the complex emotions or ideas presented by the story.

In literary fiction past and present, plot is an element that writers manipulate to convey their ideas and intentions and thus to create their unique vision.

Glossary

extraneous: unneeded

protagonist: the leading character in a play or novel

Below is an introductory sentence for a brief summary of the passage. Complete the summary by selecting **three** of the answer choices that express the most important ideas of the passage and dragging them into the box.

The plot and structure of stories can vary greatly and depend on the author's intent.

Answer Choices

- A. Conflict, an element at the center of plot, unfolds gradually and usually includes various crises that lead to a climax.
- B. Exposition can be useful in exposing how characters think and feel and in resolving their conflicts.
- C. Essential elements in storytelling, such as exposition and resolution, can be used by an author in a number of ways.
- D. The ordering of events in a story can be influenced by the author's intention or the effect the author wishes to achieve.
- E. An author can reflect the complexity of life in a story by using an array of techniques such as deus ex machina.
- F. Developing characters who are effective protagonists is a goal of many authors.

Example of Notes on Passage

Below is a list of main ideas in the passage as you might note them:

Paragraph 1: Elements of plot in literary fiction; blueprint for discussion

Paragraph 2: Exposition: basic information about setting, characters, or events

Paragraph 3: Plot: definition, methods and examples

Paragraph 4: Plot devices: 2 common types: flashback and foreshadowing

Paragraph 5: Conflict: plot complications and climax

Paragraph 6: Resolution

Paragraph 7: Conclusion: reason author manipulates plot

Explanation of Answer Choices

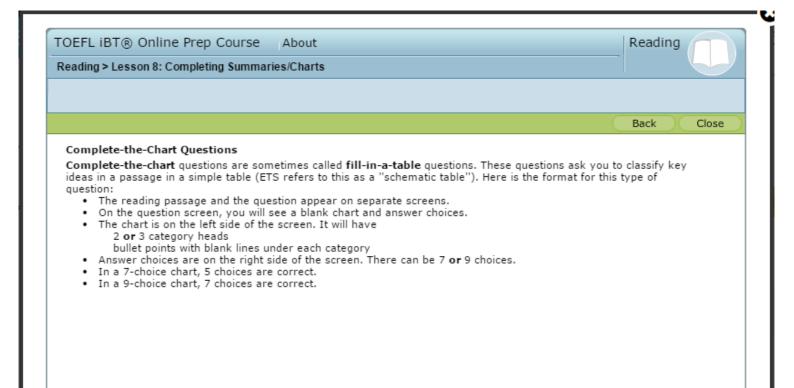
Here is an explanation of the answer choices: Connect the choices to the Notes above: Which paragraph or paragraphs discuss each idea?

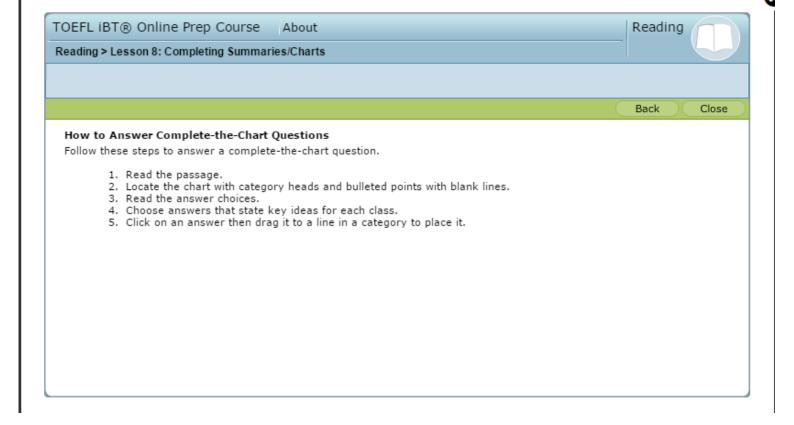
Introductory sentence: restates the passage's main idea

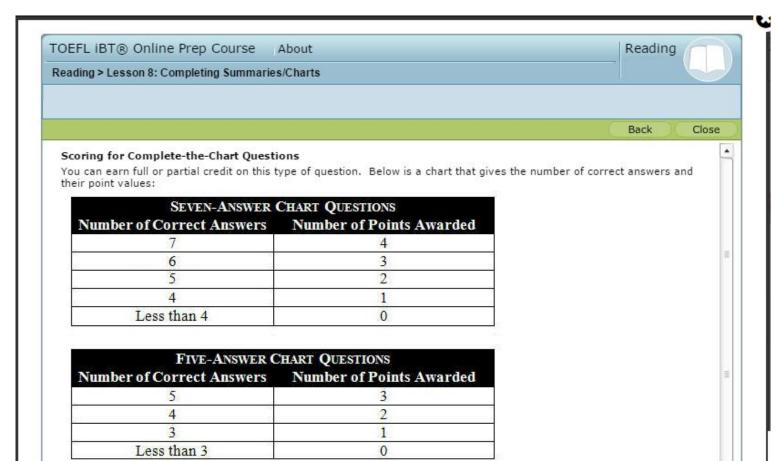
- . Choice A correctly describes a key feature of plot and what it consists of.
- · Choice B focuses on another main element of plot but incorrectly defines it.
- · Choice C correctly identifies the broad use of two more key ideas in plotting.
- · Choice D correctly defines the main topic (plot) and its key connection to a writer's intention.
- Choice E includes a detail from the passage and inaccurately defines it.
- Choice F mentions a point that is not discussed in the passage.

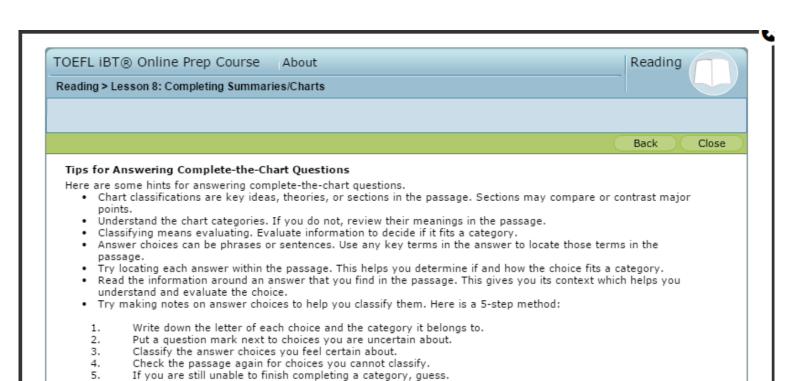
The correct choices are A, C, and D.

- A. Conflict, an element at the center of plot, unfolds gradually and usually includes various crises that lead to a climax.
- C. Essential elements in storytelling, such as exposition and resolution, can be used by an author in a number of ways.
- D. The ordering of events in a story can be influenced by the author's intention or the effect the author wishes to achieve.

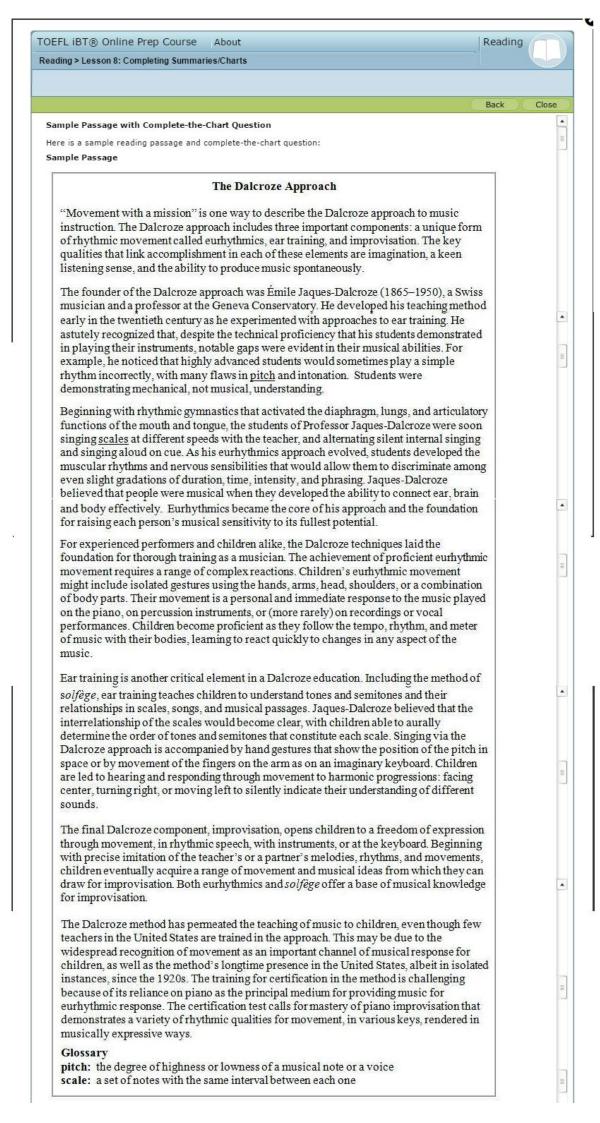








Answer choices do not need to be placed in any particular order in each category.



	Answer Choices
Ear Training	A. Leads students to hearing and responding
	by movement
• 16	B. Expects that students will begin by
	reproducing sounds exactly as heard
	C. Uses body language to indicate pitch
-	D. Teaches mechanical techniques of music
Eurhythmics	E. Requires that students respond
	immediately to different parts of music
(1	F. Includes the solfege method
•	G. Uses a variety of media to present music
12	
	H. Developed by Jaques-Dalcroze to teach
mprovisation	students the importance of formal dance
	I. May be presented only after other
•	techniques have been learned
•	
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