



Reading

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This section measures your ability to understand academic passages of varying difficulty and to answer questions about the information presented. Certain reading skills will improve your chances for success.



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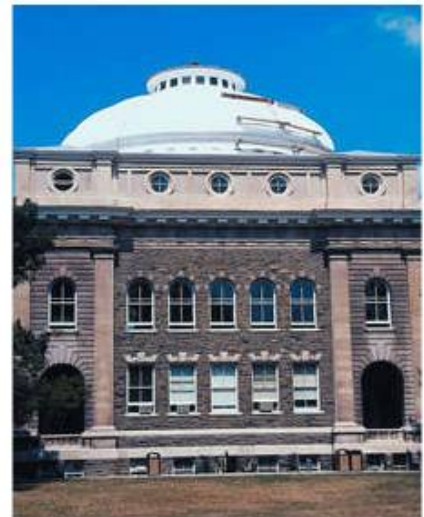
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Reading Section Overview

The reading section features:

- 3-4 passages (approximately 700 words each)
- 12 - 14 questions after each passage
- a 60 - 80-minute time limit

To do well in answering the questions you should be able to:

- determine main ideas and supporting details
- scan for specific information
- use context to decipher vocabulary meaning
- make inferences and draw conclusions
- identify the author's point of view
- understand why the author uses certain words or examples
- identify a paraphrase
- analyze information and classify it by categories and principles



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The Passages

The passages contain subjects from many academic fields and feature academic vocabulary. They are similar in tone and content to those found in first-year North American university texts. The material comes from typical university disciplines such as science, history, art, and social science.

More specific topics could include:

astronomy	biography	architecture	anthropology
chemistry	culture	drama	economics
engineering	geography	literature	psychology
geology	government	painting	sociology

There are three types of passages:

- *Expository* passages give an explanation or teach something;
- *Narrative* passages tell a story or relate an event;
- *Persuasive* passages argue for or against a point of view.

The passages are organized and developed in typical academic styles, including definition, classification, analysis, cause and effect, comparison and contrast, and problem and solution.

Some specialized vocabulary terms will be *glossed* (or defined) for you, and others can be guessed from context. Different parts of this Reading section will teach you strategies for coping with vocabulary.



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The Questions

It's important to remember as you are answering questions that the TOEFL iBT Reading section allows you to skip questions and come back to them later. The Reading section includes three or four passages with questions. Within the section, you can go back to any questions and change your answers.



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Multiple-Choice Questions

The majority of questions in the Reading section are multiple choice, with four answer choices. Each question is worth one point.

The questions fall into two major categories: *direct* and *indirect*. The *direct* questions ask you to identify specific information in the passage. The *indirect*, or implied, questions require that you interpret the purpose of the author or passage.

Lessons 1-6 practice the following types of questions.

Direct Question Types	Your Goal
• Factual/Negative factual	Locate details included or <i>not</i> included
• Vocabulary	Use context to predict vocabulary meanings
• Reference	Determine what a specific word refers to

Indirect Question Types	Your Goal
• Inference	Draw conclusions from the information
• Purpose, methods, and attitude	Understand the author's point of view
• Paraphrase	Recognize a restatement of information from the reading



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Sentence Placement Questions

The *sentence placement* question type usually falls near the end of the reading questions. The question asks you to select the appropriate place to insert a sentence into the passage. You can use clues such as grammar and word choice to make your selection.



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Complete-the-Summary or Complete-the-Chart Questions

As a final task in each section, you will fill in a summary or chart with information from the reading passage. The questions are worth two to four points. You can receive partial credit if only some of your answers are correct. These types of tasks are practiced in Lesson 8.




Special Features

Familiarize yourself with the special features of the iBT. Knowing how to use them will save you time as you take the test. These features will appear on a computer screen similar to the one you see below.

Test	Question	Time	Testing Tools					
Reading	1 of 1	00 : 00 : 00 <small>Hide</small>	View Text					

Bow and Arrow

The bow and arrow is a sophisticated tool; it is astonishing that it was developed independently by so many different cultures all over the world. In North America, the bows of most Eastern



Woodlands Indians, described by Europeans as nomads, were made from a single piece of wood like the famous English longbow, but they were shorter: a length of 5 feet was typical. Different tribes preferred different woods: hickory, ash, or elm. A few tribes made composite bows of different materials. For example, they would laminate, or bind, animal muscle to the supple branches of the willow tree for increased strength and flexibility. The ability to kill at short range was important; accuracy at long distances was not. The Indians hunted and battled in forests; if a target was visible, it was rarely farther than 30 yards away.

1. **Titles:** The title at the beginning of each passage will give you an idea of the general content of the passage.
2. **Illustrations, Maps, Charts, Drawings, and Pictures:** Many of the reading passages will feature some kind of visual cue. These may illustrate or explain important vocabulary or ideas from passage.
3. **Paragraph Markers:** On the iBT, paragraphs are not numbered. When a question refers you to a certain paragraph, an arrow will indicate the beginning of that paragraph.
4. **Highlighted Text:** Sometimes questions ask you to look back at a certain word in the passage. These words will be highlighted.
5. **Glossary:** Passages often *gloss*, or define, two or three specialized terms or idioms. These words or phrases are underlined in blue. Click on the underlined term to get a short definition. These words or phrases are important to the overall meaning of the passage.



Review Feature

Question 8 of 12

Hide Time 00 : 14 : 04

The questions in this section are listed below. Look at the Status column to see if you have seen, answered, or not answered a question. When you first enter Review, the question you viewed last will be highlighted in the list below.

If you want to review a specific question, highlight the question in the list below by clicking on it. Then, click on **Go to Question** at the top of the screen. If you want to sort the questions according to their status or number, click the column heading. You may have to use the scroll bar to see questions at the bottom of the list if the complete list doesn't fit on the screen.

Click on **Return** to exit the Review section. This will take you back to the section you were working on before entering Review.

Number	Description	Status
1	On what observation did the research team base their hypothesis?	Answered
2	The question that was raised by the study of chimps in Africa is	Not answered
3	According to the passage, how many chimps were taught by scientists to	Answered
4	Which of these is NOT part of the method taught to the chimps?	Answered
5	Which is NOT true about the control group?	Answered
6	The experiment did NOT involve	Answered
7	The uneducated chimps learned to use the sticks	Not answered
8	How many chimpanzees did NOT learn to use the stick?	Not Answered
9	When did researchers test to see whether the chimps remembered	Answered
10	According to the passage, evidence from the experiment	Not answered

On the iBT, you can use the review feature to see which questions you have already answered. (Note: This function does not appear in the Online TOEFL Prep.) Use the *review* feature just before you complete the Reading section to make sure that you have answered every question. Follow these steps to operate this feature:

- Review** Click on this button to bring up the questions from the test.
- Status** Check here for the questions you have and have not answered already.
- Go To Question** Click on this button in the upper right-hand corner of the toolbar to go to the question you want to answer or review.
- Return** Click on this button in the upper right-hand corner of the toolbar to return to the section you were just working on.



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Using the Computer in the Reading Section

After you begin the Reading section, you will see general directions. This course will familiarize you with the directions (which are always the same on each test), so you can skip the directions by clicking on the Dismiss Directions button. Then you can start taking the test. You don't need any special computer skills, but you should be familiar with clicking and scrolling.



Moving Through the Passages

Title	Question	Time	Testing Tools					
Reading	1 of 40	00 : 00 : 00 <small>Hide</small>	View Text					

Bow and Arrow

The bow and arrow is a sophisticated tool; it is astonishing that it was developed independently by so many different cultures all over the world. In North America, the bows of most Eastern Woodlands Indians, described by Europeans as nomads, were made from a single piece of wood like the famous English longbow, but they were shorter: a length of 5 feet was typical. Different tribes preferred different woods: hickory, ash, or elm. A few tribes made composite bows of different materials. For example, they would laminate, or bind, animal muscle to the supple branches of the willow tree for increased strength and flexibility. The ability to kill at short range was important; accuracy at long distances was not. The Indians hunted and battled in forests; if a target was visible, it was rarely farther than 30 yards away.

Beginning

②

⑤

④

⑥

③

①

The first thing you will see is the reading passage. The top of the passage is marked *Beginning*; the end is marked *Finished*. If there is more text not showing on the screen, you will see the label *More Available*. These steps will help you efficiently navigate the passages:

1. **Scroll bar:** The passages are too long for one screen, so use the scroll bar to the right to move up or down through the text.
2. **Up arrow:** Click on this arrow to move up.
3. **Down arrow:** Click on this arrow to move down.
4. **Slider:** Put your cursor on the slider; then drag the slider up or down to move the passage.
5. **Space above slider:** Click on this space to move the text up.
6. **Space below slider:** Click on this space to move the text down.

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Passages and Questions

Remember that your goal in reading the passages is to correctly answer the questions that follow. You don't need to understand every word in the passage to accomplish this.

To work efficiently and accurately, follow these steps:

- **Preview** Note the title and any illustrations. Then scan through the passage for the general idea and glance through the questions--but not the answer choices yet--to see what kind of information you are reading for.
- **Read** Now read the entire passage, starting with the first screen and scrolling down at an even rate. Try to concentrate on phrases and sentences rather than individual words. Remember that you just need to understand the meaning of the passage.
- **Answer** Finally, go through the questions in order. If you know the answer to a question, enter it immediately. If you are not sure, skip the question and use the review feature to return to it later. It is better to not mark an answer you are unsure of at this point. The review feature will not remind you that your response was uncertain.

Remember these basic tips:

- Read at first for the general idea--don't try to memorize details.
- Return to the passage to check for specific information.
- Use the process of elimination to help you answer difficult questions.
- Take notes as you read to help you remember main ideas.
- Answer every question--there is no penalty for guessing.



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Locating Information in the Passage

Use the paragraph markers and highlighted words to find the information you need to answer the questions. The questions generally follow the same organization as the reading passage--that is, the first questions ask about information located in the first part of the passage, the next questions ask about information in the middle of the passage, and the final questions ask about information at the end of the passage. If you know where the answer to question number 2 is, and you know where the answer to question number 4 is, you can assume that the answer to question number 3 appears between the other two answers. Some questions, particularly complete-the-summary and complete-the-chart questions, will ask about information located in several different parts of the passage.



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Time Management

Because the TOEFL iBT usually presents three long reading passages, you may be concerned about the 60 minutes allotted for this section. But if you have a plan, you can be effective in answering more questions correctly.

These tactics will help you manage your time well:

- Spend a little less than 20 minutes on each passage and set of questions.
- Take the extra time using the **review** feature to return to any skipped questions.
- Remember that the complete-the-summary and complete-the-chart questions require a little extra time.
- Check how much time you have left by looking at the countdown clock on the left-hand side of the toolbar. You can also see what question you are working on and how many questions are left. (Note: These features do not appear in the Online TOEFL Prep.)

If you think that you will run out of time before you can read and carefully answer each question, then you will need to take some shortcuts:

- Answer the easiest questions first.
- Answer the questions where you can eliminate one or two incorrect choices.
- When little time remains, just mark an answer choice.

Remember that a wrong answer does not count any more against you than a blank answer, so you have at least a 25 percent chance!



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Strategies for the Reading Section

Utilizing the following general strategies will help you be more successful on the TOEFL iBT Reading section:

- Be familiar with the directions. You will feel more relaxed knowing what to expect, and you won't need to spend any time reading directions that you could use taking the test.
- Skim the passage and questions quickly. The questions will help you focus on main ideas in the passage, and even a glance at the information will help you retain and recall it.
- Read the passage through, scanning for important facts. Jot down notes to prepare for answering the questions.
- Answer the questions you know first. This will increase your confidence and ensure that you have time for the easy questions. Remember to use the review feature to come back to the difficult questions or ones you didn't answer.
- Manage your time. Don't spend too much time on any one reading passage or question.
- When you have only a minute left, guess on remaining questions. Use every second you have to answer each question and check the ones you've already answered. Don't stop working until the entire time is up.