

## DIRECTLY ANSWERED QUESTIONS

Many questions in the Reading Comprehension section of the TOEFL test will require answers that are directly stated in the passage. This means that you should be able to find the answer to this type of question without having to draw a conclusion. The common questions of this type are (1) stated detail questions, (2) "unstated" detail questions, and (3) pronoun referent questions.

### SKILL : ANSWER STATED DETAIL QUESTIONS CORRECTLY

A stated detail question asks about one piece of information in the passage rather than the passage as a whole. The answers to these questions are generally given in order in the passage, and the correct answer is often a restatement of what is given in the passage. This means that the correct answer often expresses the same idea as what is written in the passage, but the words are not exactly the same.

#### Example

The passage:

Williamsburg is a historic city in Virginia situated on a peninsula between two rivers, the York and the James. It was settled by English colonists in 1633, twenty-six years after the first permanent English colony in America was settled at Jamestown. In the beginning the colony at Williamsburg was named Middle Plantation because of its location in the middle of the peninsula. The site for Williamsburg had been selected by the colonists because the soil drainage was better there than at the Jamestown location, and there were fewer mosquitoes.

The questions:

1. According to the passage, Williamsburg is located
  - (A) on an island
  - (B) in the middle of a river
  - (C) where the York and the James meet
  - (D) on a piece of land with rivers on two sides
2. The passage indicates that Jamestown
  - (A) was settled in 1633
  - (B) was settled twenty-six years after Williamsburg
  - (C) was the first permanent English colony in America
  - (D) was originally named Middle Plantation
3. The passage states that the name Middle Plantation
  - (A) is a more recent name than Williamsburg
  - (B) derived from the location of the colony on the peninsula
  - (C) refers to the middle part of England that was home to the colonists
  - (D) was given to the new colony because it was located in the middle of several plantations

## ***SKILL 2-STATED DETAIL QUESTIONS***

### **HOW TO IDENTIFY THE QUESTION**

According to the passage,...  
It is stated in the passage that...  
The passage indicates that...  
The author mentions that...  
Which of the following is true...?

### **WHERE TO FIND THE ANSWER**

The answers to these questions are found in order in the passage.

### **HOW TO ANSWER THE QUESTION**

1. Choose a key word in the question.
2. Skim the appropriate part of the passage for the key word ( or related idea).
3. Read the sentence that contains the key word or idea carefully.
4. Look for the answer that restates an idea in the passage.
5. Eliminate the definitely wrong answers and choose the best answer from the remaining choices.

Flutes have been around for quite some time, in all sorts of shapes and sizes and made from a variety of materials. The oldest known flutes are about 20,000 years old; they were made from hollowed-out bones with holes cut in them. In addition to bone, older flutes were often constructed from bamboo or hollowed-out wood. Today's flutes are generally made of metal, and in addition to the holes they have a complicated system of keys, levers, and pads. The instrument belonging to well-known flautist James Galway is not just made of any metal; it is made of gold.

## SKILL 2: STATED DETAIL QUESTIONS (RESTATEMENT)

The questions:

According to the passage, the oldest flutes....

- (A) had holes cut in them
- (B) were made of metal
- (C) were made 200,000 years ago
- (D) had a complicated set of levers and pads.

The passage indicates that James Galway's flute is made of....

- (A) bones
- (B) bamboo
- (C) Wood
- (D) gold



Exercise 1 Study each of the passages and choose the best answers to the questions that follow.

PASSAGE ONE (Questions 1-3)

Ice ages, those periods when ice covered extensive areas of the Earth, are known to have occurred at least six times. Past ice ages can be recognized from rock strata that show evidence of foreign materials deposited by moving walls of ice or melting glaciers. Ice ages can also be recognized from land formations that have been produced from moving walls of ice, such as U-shaped valleys, sculptured landscapes, and polished rock faces.

- Line (5)
1. According to the passage, what happens during an ice age?
    - (A) Rock strata are recognized by geologists.
    - (B) Evidence of foreign materials is found.
    - (C) Ice covers a large portion of the Earth's surface.
    - (D) Ice melts six times.
  2. The passage covers how many different methods of recognizing past ice ages?
    - (A) One
    - (B) Two
    - (C) Three
    - (D) Four
  3. According to the passage, what in the rock strata is a clue to geologists of a past ice age?
    - (A) Ice
    - (B) Melting glaciers
    - (C) U-shaped valleys
    - (D) Substances from other areas

PASSAGE TWO (Questions 4-6)

Line (5) The human heart is divided into four chambers, each of which serves its own function in the cycle of pumping blood. The atria are the thin-walled upper chambers that gather blood as it flows from the veins between heartbeats. The ventricles are the thick-walled lower chambers that receive blood from the atria and push it into the arteries with each contraction of the heart. The left atrium and ventricle work separately from those on the right. The role of the chambers on the right side of the heart is to receive oxygen-depleted blood from the body tissues and send it on to the lungs; the chambers on the left side of the heart then receive the oxygen-enriched blood from the lungs and send it back out to the body tissues.

4. The passage indicates that the ventricles
  - (A) have relatively thin walls
  - (B) send blood to the atria
  - (C) are above the atria
  - (D) force blood into the arteries
5. According to the passage, when is blood pushed into the arteries from the ventricles?
  - (A) As the heart beats
  - (B) Between heartbeats
  - (C) Before each contraction of the heart
  - (D) Before it is received by the atria
6. According to the passage, which part of the heart gets blood from the body tissues and passes it on to the lungs?
  - (A) The atria
  - (B) The ventricles
  - (C) The right atrium and ventricle
  - (D) The left atrium and ventricle

## FIND "UNSTATED" DETAILS

You will sometimes be asked in the Reading Comprehension section of the TOEFL test to find an answer that is *not stated* or *not mentioned* or *not true* in the passage. This type of question really means that three of the answers are *stated, mentioned, or true* in the passage, while one answer is not. Your actual job is to find the three correct answers and then choose the letter of the one remaining answer.

You should note that there are two kinds of answers to this type of question: (1) there are three true answers and one answer that is not discussed in the passage, or (2) there are three true answers and one that is false according to the passage.

### Example

#### The passage:

In English there are many different kinds of expressions that people use to give a name to anything whose name is unknown or momentarily forgotten. The word *gadget* is one such word. It was first used by British sailors in the 1850's and probably came from the French word *gachette*, which was a small hook. In everyday use, the word has a more general meaning. Other words are also used to give a name to something unnamed or unknown, and these words tend to be somewhat imaginative. Some of the more commonly used expressions are a *what-d'ye-call-it*, a *whatsis*, a *thingamabob*, a *thingamajig*, a *doodad*, or a *doohickey*.

#### The questions:

1. Which of the following is NOT true about the word "gadget"?
  - (A) It is used to name something when the name is not known.
  - (B) It was used at the beginning of the nineteenth century.
  - (C) It most likely came from a word in the French language.
  - (D) Its first known use was by British sailors.
2. Which of the following is NOT mentioned in the passage as an expression for something that is not known?
  - (A) A *thingamabob*
  - (B) A *gadget*
  - (C) A *doohickey*
  - (D) A *what-is-it*

For the one answer that is *not true*, so three of the answers are true



## SKILL 3: UNSTATED DETAIL QUESTIONS

HOW TO IDENTIFY THE QUESTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Which of the following is NOT stated?</li><li>- Which of the following is not mentioned?</li><li>- Which of the following is not discussed?</li><li>-All of the following are true EXCEPT ...</li></ul>
WHERE TO FIND THE ANSWER	The answer is NOT in the passage!
HOW TO ANSWER THE QUESTION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Choose a key word in the question.</li><li>2. Read the choices before reading the paragraph to know what information you are looking for.</li><li>3. Scan in the appropriate part of the passage.</li><li>4. Read carefully the sentence that contains the key word.</li></ol>

Be Careful:

Three answers will be true or mentioned in the passage.

DO NOT GET CONFUSED.

You must choose the answer that is not stated or not true.