

Exercises R22–R24 Use Exercises R22–R24 to build your skills in recognizing the relationships between details and main ideas in reading passages.

EXERCISE R22 *Understanding summaries*

Read each passage and the statements that follow it. Write *S* in the blank if the sentence summarizes the passage. Write *D* if the sentence expresses a detail in the passage. If the sentence expresses ideas not found in the passage, write *N*.

The Pre-Raphaelite brotherhood was a school of artists formed in about 1848. The Pre-Raphaelites' ideal was absolute fidelity to nature. For a time, this school of painting greatly influenced art developments throughout Europe. However, within a decade, the movement had disbanded.

- A. N The Pre-Raphaelite movement formed in 1848 broke up within ten years due to European influences on the brotherhood.
- B. S The Pre-Raphaelite movement, which advocated a faithful portrayal of nature, influenced European art developments in the mid-nineteenth century.
- C. D The Pre-Raphaelites brought their ideals of a true portrayal of nature to their painting.

For *A* you should write *N* because there is no information in the passage concerning the reason the brotherhood disbanded. For *B* you should write *S* because this sentence summarizes the passage. For *C* you should write *D* because this is a restatement of a detail in the passage.

1. Because winning or losing a race in skiing can be a matter of a tiny fraction of a second, skiing equipment has undergone many changes. Even clothing has changed as skiers search for ways to increase speed. Now they wear one-piece suits that cling to their bodies in order to reduce wind resistance. Nothing is worn under these tight-fitting suits as anything extra may mean the loss of an important millisecond.
 - A. ____ Skiers are always searching for ways to change their appearance for an important race.
 - B. ____ Skiing equipment and clothing have been developed specifically to increase racing speeds.
 - C. ____ Clothes that cling to a skier's body cause less wind resistance.
2. Rice is the only major grain crop that is grown almost exclusively as human food. Some remarkable genetic advances have made it possible to cultivate high-yield varieties that are resistant to disease and insect pests. Because rice constitutes an essential part of the diet for much of the world's population, these advances have averted disasters that otherwise would have left millions of people severely underfed.
 - A. ____ Rice has been genetically modified for use as animal feed.
 - B. ____ New rice varieties have prevented many people from going hungry.
 - C. ____ Genetic advances have led to high-yield rice varieties.

3. Addiction to cigarette smoking is basically an addiction to nicotine. Those who are attempting to overcome their addiction have found the most common cures ineffective. Switching to low-nicotine cigarettes simply causes problem smokers to smoke more. Cigarettes without any of this chemical substance are usually rejected because they don't satisfy smokers' needs. One aid, which some quitters have found effective, is a chewing gum containing nicotine, which allows them to stop without the unpleasant withdrawal symptoms. A similar kind of treatment provides a measured nicotine dose through an inhaler.
 - A. ____ Smokers have tried to overcome their addiction to cigarettes using various methods.
 - B. ____ Nicotine is the chemical substance that all cigarettes contain.
 - C. ____ Methods that provide those trying to quit smoking with a way to get nicotine without smoking a cigarette have been effective in some cases.

4. Two-thirds of China's vast territory is either mountainous or covered by desert. Every spring, windstorms come raging out of the mountains and cross the great deserts, gathering dust. A dense cloud of dust forms that is hundreds of miles wide. It is blown thousands of miles, traveling from the North Pacific to the Gulf of Alaska and from there moving south and then east. As the prevailing winds lose their velocity, dust particles fall from the cloud. It is believed that as much as 10 percent of the soil in Hawaii comprises dust particles collected from China's deserts and dispersed in the journey across the Pacific.
 - A. ____ As the winds abate, dust particles drop from the clouds.
 - B. ____ The raging windstorms are increasing the great deserts in China.
 - C. ____ The winds coming out of China scatter dust particles across the Pacific.

EXERCISE R23 *Identifying summary ideas*

Each of the passages below is followed by an introductory sentence that begins a brief summary of the passage. Choose the letters of the three statements that express the most important ideas in the passage. Incorrect choices express minor details or are not presented in the passage.

In 1836, crews building a canal from Washington, D.C., to the Ohio River found a major obstacle in their path: a long, steep crest of mountains known as Paw Paw Ridge. Various options for surmounting this hurdle were proposed. One idea, to build directly over the sheer cliffs, proved impractical. Another option was to create a series of aqueducts to skirt around the difficult terrain. This idea was rejected because of the anticipated time and expense.

The company's project engineer, Lee Montgomery, finally decided to tunnel through the ridge, a distance of about one kilometer. This was expected to take only two years. Perhaps this was optimistic on his part, given that power drills and dynamite had not yet been invented. Montgomery had invested much of his own money in the project and was keen to see the deadlines met. However, the construction crews found that the ridge was composed of soft shale, which frequently caved in and hampered progress. Other problems followed. Cholera, aided by the unsanitary living conditions, swept through the shantytowns, claiming many lives. At one point the laborers could not be paid.

The major obstacle for the completion of the Paw Paw Canal was the Paw Paw Ridge.

- (A) The Paw Paw Canal is named after the mountain ridge that had to be traversed.
- (B) Several ideas for overcoming the Paw Paw Ridge Canal were considered.
- (C) It was decided that a one-kilometer tunnel was the best way to overcome the barrier.
- (D) Power drills and dynamite were not available during the time that the canal was being built.
- (E) The project was beset with financial setbacks, disease, and unexpected terrain characteristics.
- (F) Unpaid laborers held protests that led to the loss of lives.

You should choose *B* because the first paragraph states and discusses ideas that were considered for overcoming the obstacle, *C* because it concerns the decision on how the ridge was to be dealt with, and *E* because these were obstacles encountered during the tunneling. *A* might be inferred but is not stated as fact. *D* is a detail. The laborers were unpaid at one point, but there is no mention of their possible response as stated in *F*.

1. A recent survey found that nine out of ten drivers admit to having felt intense anger toward other drivers at some time. "Road rage" seems to be on the rise, and several explanations for this have been presented. First, there are more cars today competing for road space. People also are far more subject to time constraints. A person who must meet a time deadline, but is caught in a tangle of traffic, may feel increasingly frustrated. Soon this stress may result in an outburst of road rage ranging anywhere from pounding on the car horn to getting out of the car and attacking another driver.

Of the three major responses to stress which have evolved – fight, flight, or freeze – only one is available to the driver who is suddenly caught behind a dawdler in the fast lane. The car itself prohibits the driver from fleeing the situation or freezing in one place. The only stress response left is fight.

Another explanation may be that people are not as courteous as they used to be. A person who is worried about getting to work on time, having a report ready for the afternoon mail, and running into the boss while coming into the office late may forget how to be polite. Other drivers become the enemy and the car, a weapon.

Road rage has become a serious problem that is on the rise.

- (A) These days the roads are very congested.
- (B) Stress caused by the frustration of dealing with the traffic is a major reason for people to succumb to road rage.
- (C) The major responses to stress are fight, flight, or freeze.
- (D) The fight response is the only recourse for the driver who cannot flee nor freeze because of the situation the car puts him or her in.
- (E) The car is now a weapon and all other drivers are the enemy.
- (F) The stresses of modern-day living may cause people to forget courtesy and give in to road rage.

2. For a fossil to be found, a complicated series of steps must occur in sequence. The first is that the animal (or plant) must be buried quickly. Animals that die on the plains or in the mountains are soon found by scavengers, such as hyenas or ceratosaurs, and rapidly reduced to bone chips. Most animals that are fossilized are caught in a flash flood, or die in or near a river and are buried in a sand bar, or are caught in a sandstorm. If the current in the river is fairly strong, even those few animals that die in the water are soon torn apart and their bones scattered over acres of river bottom. It is estimated that perhaps one animal in a thousand is fossilized, likely a generous estimate.

The second condition necessary for an animal to be fossilized is that it must be buried in a depositional area: that is, more and more layers of mud or gravel must be laid down over it. If the area is subject to erosion – and nearly all land surfaces are – the fossil will soon be washed out and destroyed.

The third step is that this depositional area must at some time become an erosional area, so that wind and water wear it down and uncover the buried remains.

The fourth step necessary for the recovery of a fossil is that when the fossil is uncovered, someone knowledgeable has to walk along that ridge, or study the face of that cliff, and locate the fossil and recover it. The time frame for this recovery varies, but it is necessarily short. The fossil is protected, but also invisible, until it is exposed. As soon as it is exposed, wind and water attack it, and they can destroy it quickly. The best fossils are found when someone spots an exposed bone that turns out to be part of a buried skeleton and is therefore still well preserved. But many fine fossils have been washed away because no one happened to see them when they were first exposed, or the people who saw them didn't realize what they were seeing.

The conditions that have to be met in order for a fossil to be found are relatively rare.

- (A) Animals that die are quickly eaten by scavengers and reduced to bone chips within a short period of time.
 - (B) For an animal or a plant to become fossilized, it must be buried before other animals or the elements destroy the body.
 - (C) A fossilized animal must first be covered by layers of soil for a length of time and then be uncovered by erosional forces.
 - (D) A fossil must be protected from the elements for as long as it is buried.
 - (E) The best fossils are those that have not been washed away and scattered before they are found.
 - (F) An exposed fossil needs to be found and recognized by someone for what it is before it is destroyed by the elements.
3. One of the major hazards for deep-sea divers is decompression sickness (DCS), more commonly known as "the bends." This sometimes fatal condition is caused by gas bubbles forming in the bloodstream if the diver ascends too rapidly. These bubbles travel in the blood and may become lodged anywhere in the body. Most commonly, they get trapped in joints, particularly the spine. The resulting pain causes the diver to bend over, hence the name of the condition.

The reason gas bubbles form has to do with the saturation and desaturation of body tissues with various gases. At increasingly great depths, the diver breathes air at higher pressures. This results in an increased quantity of air being dissolved in the bloodstream. Different body tissues are saturated with different gases from the air at different rates. When the diver rises to the surface, oxygen is used by the body tissues, carbon dioxide is released quickly, and nitrogen remains. The nitrogen needs to be released gradually from the bloodstream and body tissues. If nitrogen is

subjected to a too rapid pressure reduction, it forms bubbles. Not only do these bubbles collect in joints, but they also become trapped in capillaries. This prevents blood and oxygen from supplying necessary nutrients to body tissues, which consequently begin to die.

Saturation and desaturation are affected by various factors such as the depth, length of time, and amount of exertion under water. There are other factors that must be taken into account when determining a safe ascent rate. These include the diver's sex and body build, the number of dives undertaken within the previous 12 hours, the time spent at the dive location before the dive, and the composition of the respiration gas.

Diving tables set guidelines based on statistical probabilities of getting the bends. However, someone who stays within the suggested limits can still get DCS. Since even a mild case can leave a diver permanently disabled, it is imperative that divers recognize the symptoms. Unfortunately, such symptoms can be similar to those of the flu or a strained muscle, something that occurs frequently when divers are handling heavy equipment, using improperly fitted gear, or engaging in unaccustomed activity. Because even professionals can have difficulty diagnosing DCS, the most reliable test is to recompress the patient and see whether the symptoms abate.

Decompression sickness (DCS) is a sometimes fatal condition that affects deep-sea divers.

- (A) DCS is the formation of gas bubbles in the bloodstream caused by the different saturation and desaturation rates of gases under pressure.
- (B) Most people are more familiar with the term "the bends," referring to the way a diver bends over in pain.
- (C) Body tissues die when nitrogen prevents blood and oxygen from bringing important nutrients.
- (D) Saturation and desaturation rates of gases are affected by factors that divers need to take into consideration.
- (E) DCS can be misdiagnosed as the flu.
- (F) The best way to diagnose DCS is to put the patient through recompression.

4. One of the most basic laws of economics is that nothing of value is free. Sometimes this is dubbed "tanstaafl." The word *tanstaafl* is formed from the initials of the statement: "There ain't no such thing as a free lunch." What this means is that everything that has value must be paid for in currency, labor, or by some other means.

Not only do people have to pay for everything that has value, but governments do as well. Governments have a lot of expenditures – public buildings, roads, military, etc. – and to get the necessary money, they tax their citizens. Nobody likes to pay taxes, and history has shown that when taxes get too high, people eventually revolt and overthrow the offending government. To avoid raising taxes, a government must find another way to deal with the problem of getting money to meet its expenses.

A case in point is the government of the Roman Empire. The Roman government taxed its citizens in order to pay for the expenses of running such a vast empire. It became apparent that if it raised taxes further, it risked provoking unrest. So it came up with the idea of clipping the denarius, a coin made of 94 percent silver. When the tax collectors brought in people's taxes paid in silver coins, the Roman treasury clipped, or shaved the edges off, the coins. The clippings were minted into new coins. For a time, this gave the government the money necessary for its budget.

But it did not take the Roman people long to realize that some of their coins were missing silver. Therefore, they either refused to accept the clipped coins or charged more coins for their goods or services.

In later centuries a system called reeding came into practice. A reeded coin has grooves along its edge making it easy to see whether or not clipping has taken place. But since the Roman government still needed money and clipping no longer served its purpose, the Roman treasury started melting down coins and reminting them with a mixture of base metal, such as copper. However, each time a coin was melted down and reminted with a base-metal mixture, the content of precious metal became less and that of base metal, more. When the Roman people realized that their money was being debased, they responded by hoarding coins. Whenever they got a good coin, one with a high percentage of silver in it, they kept it. They spent only bad coins, those with a low percentage of silver. This behavior is explained by Gresham's Law, which states: Bad money drives good money out of circulation. When debasement happens, money loses its value and prices inevitably rise.

The Roman government tried various ways of dealing with the economic problem of running their Empire.

- (A) The Roman officials understood the concept of *tanstaafl* – that nothing of value is free.
- (B) Like Roman people, the Roman government had expenses, which in the case of the Empire included building cities, maintaining roads, and keeping an army.
- (C) The Roman Treasury met expenditures by taxing citizens until further tax increases would have caused discontent.
- (D) The Roman currency was the denarius, which was composed of 94 percent silver.
- (E) By clipping silver from an old coin, the Treasury was able to mint new coins until the people became wise and the coins had to be reeded.
- (F) A further need for money caused the Roman Treasury to start the practice of minting coins that were debased.

EXERCISE R24 *Organizing information into charts*

In the following exercise, each passage is followed by a list of answer choices and two categories. Follow the specific instructions underneath each passage about how to match the answer choices to the correct categories. Not all of the answer choices will be used.

Early Greek columns were built in two main styles, or orders – the Doric and the Ionic – named after Greek dialects. Of these two orders, the Ionic is the more slender – but is most notably different in the decoration of the capital, the part that rests on top of the column. While the capital of the Doric column is plain and unadorned, that of the Ionic is characterized by two pairs of prominent spiral scrolls, one pair on each side of the capital, which may have been inspired by curling leaves of foliage. Between the scrolls other ornamentation, such as an egg and dart pattern, were often carved for added embellishment.

Select the appropriate phrases from the answer choices and match them to the style of column to which they relate. TWO of the answer choices will NOT be used.

Answer Choices	Ionic
A. Larger in comparison	• <u>D</u>
B. Styles of Greek dialects	• <u>F</u>
C. An unembellished capital	Doric
D. A capital adorned with spiral scrolls	• <u>A</u>
E. A split column	• <u>C</u>
F. Added decoration between scrolls	

You should write *D* and *F* in the Ionic column because it is described as having spiral scrolls on the capital and added embellishment between them. You should write *A* and *C* in the Doric column because the Doric column is described as larger and its capital is described as unadorned. Since *B* concerns the origin of the names for the two types of columns and *E* concerns information not stated in the passage, they are not appropriate for either category.

- Initially, underground homes are more expensive to build than conventional houses. In order to avoid a home resembling a dark, dank basement, much care and expense must be put into designing a home with well-placed windows and skylights that ensure brightness and fresh air. Conventional homes have much more straightforward designs. Also, expensive and sophisticated waterproofing techniques need to be used to keep moisture out of an underground home. However, in the long term, underground homes save the owner a great deal of money in heating and air-conditioning costs. Underground houses require much less energy than conventional homes because the soil temperature is relatively stable and the concrete walls can store the sun's heat and radiate it into the rooms at night.

Select the appropriate phrases from the answer choices and match them to the type of home to which they relate. ONE of the answer choices will NOT be used.

Answer Choices	Underground Homes
A. Expensive to build	• _____
B. Higher energy costs	• _____
C. Unstable soil temperatures	Conventional Homes
D. Waterproofing to avoid dampness	• _____
E. Easier to design	• _____

- The earliest form of dueling was the clash of mounted knights armed with lances in medieval tournaments. These duels were often purely sporting affairs in which special nonlethal lances were used. They provided entertainment for the spectators and kept the knights in good condition for battle. Later, in Elizabethan days, duels no longer took place on horseback, and the lance was exchanged for a sword and dagger. The sword was held in the right hand and used for attacking, while the dagger was held in the left hand and used for defense. Dueling with swords was not a sport but used as a means to decide a point of honor. This form of dueling later became obsolete with the invention of pistols, which brought about a whole new set of rules and etiquette unique to that form of dueling.

Select the appropriate phrases from the answer choices and match them to the period of dueling to which they relate. ONE of the answer choices will NOT be used.

Answer Choices	Early Forms of Dueling
A. Unique set of rules	• _____
B. Clashes in battle	• _____
C. Defense of one's honor	Later Forms of Dueling
D. Entertaining spectacles	• _____
E. Use of horses	• _____

3. Playing marbles was supposedly popular in ancient Egypt, and it has yet to lose its popularity. There are several different games played with marbles, but the main object of all marble games is to hit a target with a marble. "Shooting the marble" is accomplished by flicking a marble that is balanced on the index finger with a quick movement of the thumb. The best-known marble game is called "ringtaw." In this game, the players draw a circle on the ground. From a prearranged distance, they take turns shooting one of their marbles at other marbles placed in the circle. The object is to knock as many marbles out of the circle as possible. In another game, "fortification," the marbles are placed in the center of a series of concentric circles marked on the ground. The players must knock marbles out of the center circle and into the adjacent circle. A marble is considered out when a player has knocked it through all the circles. A third popular game uses holes instead of circles. In fact, this game is called "holes." Here, the players shoot their marbles into shallow holes dug in the ground.

Select the appropriate phrases from the answer choices and match them to the type of game to which they relate. ONE of the answer choices will NOT be used.

Answer Choices	Ringtaw
A. Marbles knocked out of the circle completely	• _____
B. Marbles flicked into holes	• _____
C. Circles within circles drawn on ground	Fortification
D. One circle drawn on ground	• _____
E. Marbles knocked through one circle at a time	• _____

4. Sun City, South Africa; Disney World; and Sentosa Island are examples of the artificial, all-purpose holiday resort. These "tourism ghettos," as they are referred to by seasoned travelers, isolate tourists from the real world and provide instead a sanitized package of pleasures. However much they are ridiculed and avoided by those looking for a cultural experience or seeking to study local fauna, they have proved their worth to those who are environmentally concerned with the welfare of the planet. Sun City, for example, was built on what had been useless scrubland, but now provides a haven for endangered or elusive wildlife. Unlike some traditional vacation spots, such as beach resorts that have destroyed the beauty of the area and have put heavy burdens on the infrastructure of coastal villages not designed for a large influx of people, these all-purpose resorts were carefully planned to

accommodate large numbers of tourists. Incorporated in this planning is concern for the environment and for the local inhabitants. An artificial resort can gather into one compact area the best that the host country has to offer. Artificial lakes can attract birds that would not normally be seen. Trees can be planted to provide homes for animals and insects. Even species that have been wiped out in the wild could be reintroduced.

Select the appropriate phrases from the answer choices and match them to the type of resort to which they relate. ONE of the answer choices will NOT be used.

- | Answer Choices | | Artificial Resort |
|---|---|---------------------------|
| A. Accommodates large numbers of people | • | _____ |
| B. Is responsible for wiping out some species | • | _____ |
| C. Has damaged natural beauty | | Traditional Resort |
| D. Provides sanctuary for wildlife | • | _____ |
| E. Puts burdens on local infrastructures | • | _____ |
5. A few investigators, known as cryptozoologists, are dedicated to researching mysterious, unclassified beasts that orthodox scientists refuse to believe exist. One of the most celebrated mysteries being investigated by cryptozoologists is "Bigfoot," a large hairy humanoid creature that many people claim to have seen in parts of North America. In 1967, a film of what was purported to be Bigfoot was actually taken by an amateur photographer. Of course, this footage is almost certainly a hoax. Nevertheless, many people remain convinced of Bigfoot's existence.
- Another humanoid creature, the Yeti or "abominable snowman" of the Himalayas, may be the most fascinating undiscovered creature. Many climbers and Sherpas claim to have seen the Yeti or its footprints, and local inhabitants of the mountains are convinced of its existence. As in the case of Bigfoot, some film footage that is alleged to be of this creature exists.
- While cryptozoologists keep an open mind about their object of study, they are quick to point to cases in which the skeptics were proved mistaken. Those interested in water life can name as an example the giant squid, which was dismissed as the product of an overactive imagination until a specimen was washed up on a beach in 1873. The coelacanth, a large-bodied, hollow-spined fish and predecessor of the amphibians, was considered extinct until one was caught by a fisherman off the coast of South Africa in 1938. The Loch Ness Monster, however, has not been found and continues to provoke disagreements among researchers. In this case some authorities argue that while some kind of creature may really have been seen, it is probably a type of whale that penetrates the loch when the river feeding the loch floods.
- Besides humanlike creatures and sea animals, cryptozoologists are also interested in land animals. The pygmy hippopotamus, for example – once claimed to be extinct – was eventually found to exist in East Africa. However, the Congo dinosaur and the Queensland tiger have not been found. These and other intriguing creatures will no doubt be the objects of much speculation as well as pursuit for years to come.

Select the appropriate phrases from the answer choices and match them to the type of creature to which they relate. TWO of the answer choices will NOT be used.

Answer Choices		Creatures Found to Exist
A. The hairy humanoid creature in North America called Bigfoot	•	_____
B. The Yeti, known as the abominable snowman, of the Himalayas	•	_____
C. The footage of North America	•	_____
D. The specimen of a giant squid		
E. The large-bodied, hollow-spined coelacanth		
F. The Loch Ness Monster		
G. The land animals that cryptozoologists are interested in		
H. The East African pygmy hippopotamus		
I. The Congo dinosaur and the Queensland tiger		

		Creatures That Perhaps Don't Exist
	•	_____
	•	_____
	•	_____
	•	_____

6. Research investigating what happens when people sleep has shown that they typically journey through five distinct levels or stages of sleep. Each level corresponds to changes in body temperature, respiration and body movements, and electroencephalograph (EEG) patterns. EEG patterns refer to the patterns of electrical activity in the brain as measured by a device called an electroencephalograph.

The first stage is a period of quiet sleep during which muscle tension decreases and the brain produces irregular, rapid waves. If woken at this time, a sleeper may jerk suddenly and deny having been asleep. In the second stage, breathing and the heart rate slow down and brain waves become larger. In the third and fourth stages, bodily functions decrease more and brain waves become even larger.

The deepest sleep occurs in the fourth stage and is very difficult to awaken from. This is considered a regenerative period, when the body repairs itself. In fact, during illness people may fall immediately into a deep sleep because infection-fighting antibodies are produced in greater numbers in this stage. After a period of time in Stage 4, a sleeper ascends back through each of the stages. He or she then enters a new stage that is sometimes known as Stage 5, even though it is, in a sense, higher than Stage 1.

The fifth stage is reached, judging by brain activity, when a person appears to be sleeping lightly as in Stage 1 but is very hard to rouse. Because of this, the stage is sometimes called "paradoxical sleep." During this stage, people exhibit what are known as rapid eye movements (REMs), and frequently their toes and facial muscles twitch, whereas the large muscles seem paralyzed. It is believed that during this stage most dreaming occurs. If something happens to awaken someone during this stage, the sleeper frequently recalls vivid dreams.

During the course of an eight-hour period, most people seem to pass through five or six cycles of sleep. In the earlier cycles, sleepers typically descend down to Stage 4. However, after several complete cycles earlier in the night, they do not reenter the deeper stages, but fluctuate between REM and Stage 2. As the end of the sleep period approaches, body temperature begins to rise and the breathing and heart rate normalize.

Select the appropriate sentences from the answer choices and match them to the stages of sleep to which they relate. TWO of the answer choices will NOT be used.

Answer Choices	One of the First Four Stages	Final Stage
A. The muscles relax and the brain waves become uneven.	• _____	
B. The EEG patterns indicate the different brain activities.	• _____	
C. The phase for dreaming is considered to take place.	• _____	
D. Denial of having been asleep if disturbed is a common reaction.	• _____	
E. A person feels paralyzed despite having twitching muscles.		• _____
F. Rapid eye movement is observed.		• _____
G. There is a slowing down of both breathing and body movements.		• _____
H. To all appearances the person is sleeping lightly, but is difficult to arouse.		
I. The person is sleeping the most profoundly.		

Reading Mini-test 5

Check your progress in understanding summaries and charts (Exercises R22–R24) by completing the following Mini-test. This Mini-test uses question types used in the Reading section of the TOEFL iBT test.

Read each passage, then answer the question that follows.

One of the foremost American entertainers of the first part of the twentieth century was a part-Cherokee Native American named Will Rogers (1879–1935). Rogers was born in territory that would later become the state of Oklahoma and spent much of his youth riding horses and mastering the use of the lariat. These skills were refined into an entertainment act based on fancy rope tricks interspersed with humorous anecdotes and witty remarks. Traveling widely as a vaudeville entertainer, by 1915 Rogers had become a star act with the Ziegfeld Follies, a famous stage show. In 1918 his stage skills led to a new career as a movie actor both in silent films and later in the “talkies.”

In the early 1920s, Rogers embarked on another profession, this time as a journalist writing weekly newspaper columns that reached millions of people worldwide. Beginning in 1930 he also broadcast regular radio addresses. What distinguished his journalistic approach was his firsthand experience of ordinary people and places and a wry sense of humor, often debunking establishment figures and institutions. This poking fun at the serious side of life, combined with an optimistic homespun philosophy, gave him immense popular appeal. He became a national and international celebrity and acquired the unofficial status of a goodwill ambassador during his travels in Europe. He also had a strong philanthropic streak and devoted money and time to charitable causes.

Rogers also had a keen interest in flying. He often wrote about the development of aviation and made friends with trailblazing flyers such as Charles Lindbergh. Another pioneering aviator, Wiley Post, invited Rogers to join him in testing the viability of a commercial route between the United States and Asia. Tragically, both Rogers and Post were killed when their plane crashed in northern Alaska. Rogers's death was felt deeply throughout the United States, and the public displays of mourning were heartfelt and widespread. The epitaph by his tomb is taken from one of his numerous quotable remarks and reminds us of the essential dignity of the man. It reads, "Never Met A Man I Didn't Like."

1. An introductory sentence for a brief summary of the passage is provided below. Complete the summary by selecting the THREE answer choices that express the most important ideas in the passage. Some sentences do not belong in the summary because they express ideas that are not presented in the passage or are minor ideas in the passage.

Will Rogers was a much loved, charismatic figure from the first part of the twentieth century.

- (A) The state of Oklahoma had been part of the Cherokee Native American nation to which Rogers belonged.
- (B) Rogers's interests as a youth gave him the skills to succeed in the entertainment world.
- (C) The Ziegfeld Follies was a famous stage show that Rogers participated in.
- (D) A sense of humor and an optimistic philosophy were characteristics that brought Rogers worldwide distinction as a journalist and goodwill ambassador.
- (E) Rogers's death in an airplane crash brought about widespread mourning for the highly esteemed celebrity.
- (F) Written on Rogers's tombstone is "Never Met A Man I Didn't Like," one of his remarks that highlights his dignity.

The importance of background music in a film cannot be overstated. It is instrumental in creating the mood the moviemaker wants to evoke. During the infancy of cinema, the importance of music was understood, but the relationship between music and the screen action was not fully appreciated. Thus, early musical material consisted of anything available, often bearing little relation to the emotional impact of the movie. Since techniques for movies to include sound had not yet been developed, music was provided by a single musician, a small band, or a full orchestra. These musicians played what they wanted, and a pianist good at improvisation was highly regarded.

As the commercial potential of the cinema became apparent, producers realized the advantage of each film having its own music. In 1908, Camille Saint-Saëns composed music specifically for a French film. However, this idea was before its time and was not embraced by the movie industry. Perhaps cinema musicians weren't ready to learn new pieces for each movie that came along, or perhaps the costs were prohibitive.

By 1913, special catalogs of music for specific dramatic purposes were available. Thus, musicians had at their disposal music that could be used for any scene from any movie. Much of this music consisted of works by famous composers and predated the advent of motion pictures. For example, Mendelssohn's wedding march was a typical catalog piece for wedding scenes and had been written before the appearance of motion pictures.

In 1922 a system that guaranteed synchronization of sound with image was developed, thus making music an essential part of filmmaking. At first, background music was used only if there was an orchestra or performer on screen because it was believed people would be bewildered about the origin of the sound.

A 1930s Western called *Cimarron* was the first film to experiment with background music without a visible means of production. The composer for this sound track was Max Steiner, a pioneer of film scoring. Steiner also composed the film score for *Symphony of Six Million* in 1932, the first film to have music underlying dialogue. The simple, somewhat naïve music of early film scores quickly developed into the sophisticated musical experience that moviegoers encounter today.

2. An introductory sentence for a brief summary of the passage is provided below. Complete the summary by selecting the THREE answer choices that express the most important ideas in the passage. Some sentences do not belong in the summary because they express ideas that are not presented in the passage or are minor ideas in the passage.

The way music is made to create mood in movies has undergone many changes throughout the history of cinema.

- (A) Live musicians, who in earlier times had been improvising or playing what they wanted, were later given collections of pieces to play to set the mood.
- (B) Camille Saint-Saëns was ahead of his time when he wrote music for a specific French film in 1908.
- (C) Synchronization of sound and image made a practical reality of the previously failed idea that each film should have its own music.
- (D) *Cimarron* and *Symphony of Six Million*, both movies from the 1930s, were breakthroughs in the music industry.
- (E) Music evolved to underlie dialogues and to be heard in the background by an invisible means of production.
- (F) In the infancy of cinema, people were naïve but since then have become sophisticated moviegoers.

Water scarcity is fast becoming one of the major limiting factors in world crop production. In many areas, poor agricultural practices have led to increasing desertification and the loss of formerly arable lands. Consequently, those plant species that are well adapted to survival in dry climates are being looked at for an answer to the development of more efficient crops to grow on marginally arable lands.

Plants use several mechanisms to ensure their survival in desert environments. Some involve purely mechanical and physical adaptations, such as the shape of the plant's surface, smaller leaf size, and extensive root systems. Xerophytes and phraetophytes are two kinds of plants that survive in the desert environment through adaptations of their physical structure. Xerophytes, which include cactuses, an adaptation from the rose family, are effective desert plants because they have spines instead of leaves. These spines protect the plant from animals, shade it from the sun, and help it collect moisture. Another adaptation is their shallow but extensive root systems. The roots radiate out from the plant and quickly absorb large quantities of water when it rains.

The mesquite tree is a type of phraetophyte. These plants have tiny leaves that close their pores during the day to avoid water loss and open them at night when they can absorb moisture. All phraetophytes have developed extremely long root systems that draw water from the water table deep underground. Some phraetophytes have developed a double-root system – the typical long and deep root system to collect ground water and a shallow one like the xerophytes to collect surface water.

Some desert plant adaptations are related to chemical mechanisms. For instance, some phraetophytes depend on their unpleasant smell and taste for protection, while many xerophytes have internal gums and mucilages that give them water-retaining properties. Another chemical mechanism is that of the epiticular wax layer. This wax layer acts as an impervious cover to protect the plant. It prevents excessive loss of internal moisture. It also protects the plant from external aggression, which can come from inorganic agents such as gases, or organic agents, which include bacteria and plant pests.

Researchers have proposed that synthetic waxes with similar protective abilities could be prepared based on knowledge of desert plants. If successfully developed, such a compound could be used to greatly increase a plant's ability to maintain health in such adverse situations as inadequate water supply, limited fertilizer availability, attack by pests, and poor storage after harvesting.

3. Select the appropriate survival tactics from the answer choices and match them to the type of plant to which they relate. TWO of the answer choices will NOT be used.

Answer Choices	Xerophytes
A. Epiticular wax coating causes difficulties for storage after harvesting.	• _____
B. Internal chemical mechanisms allow water to be held.	• _____
C. Small leaves open to collect water and close to retain it.	• _____
D. Spines were adapted from leaves.	
E. The smell and taste of the plant is unpleasant for predators.	Phraetophytes
F. The long roots spread out close to the surface of the ground.	• _____
G. The roots descend deep into the ground.	• _____
H. The cactus is an adaptation of the rose to desert environments.	• _____
I. Two sets of root systems collect ground and surface water.	• _____