

Reading Passage 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on Questions 1-13, which are based on Reading Passage 1 below.

It is in everyone's pocket and we feel ill-at-ease when it is not. The ubiquitous mobile phone. The world of technology has come a long way since the first mobile phone was invented in 1973. Bulky and awkward to use at first to the sleek and powerful smartphones of today, the evolution of the mobile phone has been rapid and impressive. To celebrate its fiftieth birthday we will explore the history of mobile phones and how they have changed the way we communicate. We will also look at some of the most popular smartphones on the market today and how they are revolutionizing the way we interact with the world around us.

The Motorola DynaTAC 8000X was the first cellular phone that general public could buy. It was released in 1983, and it was also the first mobile phone to meet the FCC's stringent requirements for mobile phone use. The phone was designed to be used with the Motorola Cellular Network, which was the first cellular network in the United States. It had a weight of 28 ounces, and it was 9 inches tall. It had a black and white LCD display, and it had a numeric keypad for dialing numbers. The phone had a battery life of up to 30 minutes of talk time, and it could store 30 phone numbers in its memory. It also had a built-in speakerphone for hands-free conversations. Finally, it had an antenna that could be extended to improve reception, and came complete with a car charger compatibility. The phone was considered a luxury item at the time, and it cost around \$3,995. It was a revolutionary device that changed the way people communicated and paved the way for the modern mobile phone.

The company that is credited to have made mobile phones affordable is Nokia. Contrary to popular belief, the company is not Japanese, but Finnish. The impact of Nokia on the mobile phone market has been immense. The company is responsible for introducing a number of innovative features, such as the first colour screens, the first mobile phone sporting a built-in camera, and the ability to access the internet. Nokia has also been instrumental in developing the technology behind 3G and 4G networks, allowing mobile phones to access high-speed data networks. Nokia has also had a major influence on the design direction in the industry. Its iconic Nokia 3310 was a huge hit when it was released in 2000 selling over 126 million units worldwide, and its appearance has been copied by many other manufacturers.

The most commercially successful mobile phone of all time is the renowned Apple iPhone. The iPhone was first released in 2007 and was an instant success. While it wasn't the first smartphone, it introduced the concept of a multi-functional touchscreen that dominates the body of the phone with a minimal number of physical buttons. The idea of an app store where users could download thousands of apps redefined the industry of mobile software. The iPhone was so successful that it gave way to a whole new era of similar devices, and to this day it remains the dominant force on the market, shaping the phones of the future. It is no wonder that it has gone through over ten generations, each improving on almost every single technological aspect of the device. Small wonder that, largely thanks to the iPhone Apple became the most valuable company in the world.

The country that has the most cellphones per capita is the United Arab Emirates. This is mainly due to the country's high disposable income as well as its strong infrastructure and connectivity. The UAE has been investing heavily in its telecoms sector, resulting in mobile networks and internet speeds that are among the highest. It has one of the highest mobile penetration rates in the world, with more than 200 million active subscribers, while also boasting the highest internet speeds. Finally, the UAE is a popular tourist destination that has millions of people visiting it every year. This means that the country has to keep up with the latest trends in mobile technology in order to meet the needs of its visitors.

IELTS Reading – Practice Test 16

Despite the indisputable advantages that cellphones offer, there is a number of drawbacks to be kept in mind. While many believe that one of the biggest risks is the radiation emitted by the gadget, statistics shows otherwise. People nowadays are too distracted to pay attention to their surroundings, which in some cases leads to serious injury or even death. The infamous “driving and texting” is the main culprit, leading to a staggering 1.6 million traffic accidents each year according to the National Safety Council. Another issue to consider is the increasing social isolation that mobile devices bring about. People nowadays prefer texting to face-to-face communication. Finally, with all the information such as credit card numbers and other sensitive data stored on our phones they potentially pose a very serious security threat – a fact that many people simply fail to realise.

Taking a look at today’s latest models, it is difficult to wrap your mind around what huge headway the technology has made. Modern devices are almost as powerful as full-fledged computers. The cameras can rival those of dedicated devices, the sound is crystal clear and the battery can last for days. Perhaps the real paradigm changer though is the fact how reliant we have grown on these little things and how much worse we would have been without them. It would definitely make us appreciate them more.

Questions 1-7

Do the following statements agree with the information given in Reading Passage 1?

In boxes 1-7 on your answer sheet, write

TRUE if the statement agrees with the information

FALSE if the statement contradicts the information

NOT GIVEN if there is no information on this

1. Initially, mobile phones were considerably heavier than they are now
2. The first mobile phone was sold in 1973
3. Motorola pioneered the mobile phone market
4. The USA was the first country to have cellular network coverage
5. Motorola DynaTAC 8000X could be controlled using voice
6. Motorola introduced phone cameras to the market
7. Mobile access to the internet was only made possible by iPhone

Questions 8 and 9

According to the text, which **TWO** facts are true about the iPhone?

- A it was the first phone with a touchscreen
- B it was first to offer downloadable software
- C the phone was immediately accepted by the public
- D the phone only had one button
- E it is a trend-setter of the industry

Questions 10-13

Using **NO MORE THAN ONE WORD** from the passage, complete the summary

While mobile phones are indispensable in our daily lives they pose certain **10** ____ to the user. Even though many argue that it is **11** ____ emitted by the device, the facts point at something entirely different. The truth is one might get too **12** ____ when talking on the phone or sending messages which can potentially lead to very serious consequences. **13** ____ concern is another thing to keep in mind as phones store lots of sensitive data that can be easily compromised.

IELTS Reading – Practice Test 16

Reading Passage 2

You should spend about 20 minutes on Questions 14-28, which are based on Reading Passage 2 on the following pages.

A

What inventions have changed the way we live for the better? If you set out to ask this question, most people will name the invention of the wheel or electricity. Younger respondents might come up with something recent, like the Internet. The more educated could remember the printing press. However, very few are likely to mention discovering the method of producing glass, despite its ubiquity and how long it has been around. So, is glass the underdog invention of human civilization?

B

Glass is an amorphous solid material that is transparent and brittle. It is composed of silica, sodium oxide, and calcium oxide. It is hard and has a high melting point. It is also a good insulator, meaning that it does not conduct electricity, and can be used to transmit light. Glass has a low coefficient of thermal expansion – in other words, it does not expand or contract much when exposed to heat or cold. It is also resistant to corrosion and does not react with many chemicals, making it perfect for outdoor applications, especially when it has to be exposed to the elements.

C

Glass has been around for millions of years, but it wasn't until about 3500 BC, effectively predating iron smelting, that humanity managed to produce it artificially. The earliest known use of glass can be tracked down to Mesopotamia, in the form of beads and other decorative objects. Around 1500 BC, glassmakers in Lebanon began creating glass by heating sand and other ingredients in a furnace. This process, known as glass blowing, made it possible to give the molten glass a variety of shapes and sizes. This method was used to make windows and primitive lenses, as well as decorative objects. In the first century AD, artisans in Rome pioneered the method of mixing glass, sand, and other ingredients with lead oxide. Referred to as glass staining, this technique allowed to introduce colours and texture alteration of glass.

D

It is worth noting that glass is technically not a human invention as it occurs naturally in various forms. It is most commonly formed when certain types of rocks are heated to high temperatures and then cooled quickly. Such glass can be found in the form of obsidian – a black, glass-like rock, and tektites, which are small, glassy objects that are thought to have been created by meteorite impacts. Fulgurite is probably the first form of glass, colloquially referred to as natural glass, which is formed when lightning strikes a sandy beach or desert. The intense heat melts the sand and creates a glass-like material. To the uninitiated, however, it won't look like glass at all, as it is usually impossible to see anything through it. The few natural examples of this material that do look man-made are usually not transparent, but translucent – you can see light coming through them, but it is difficult to make out the object on the other side. The latter is one of the hallmark qualities of “real” glass.

E

Glass has been used by humans for thousands of years, and its usage has only grown over time. From windows to drinking vessels, glass has become an integral part of our lives. Today, glass is needed in a variety of industries, ranging from construction to medicine. In construction, glass is found in windows, doors, and skylights. These allow natural light to enter a building, reducing the need for artificial lighting and thus saving energy. Glass is also indispensable in conservatories and greenhouses, which help regulate temperatures and ensure an optimal

IELTS Reading – Practice Test 16

environment for plants. Automotive industry would probably not even exist without it - windshields and lights being only a few examples of how this material can be used there. Food and drink containers made of glass are said to better preserve the taste and aroma.

F

Glass is created through a process known as smelting, which involves heating sand, soda ash, and limestone at extremely high temperatures. One of the unwanted consequences of this is the infamous carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas that gets released into the atmosphere. Additionally, the production requires a large amount of energy, which is often generated from burning fossil fuels, thereby indirectly contributing to further environmental damage. Glass production also requires the use of chemicals such as sulfuric acid that is harmful to the environment if not properly disposed of. Furthermore, the disposal of glass can be problematic. Glass is not biodegradable so it can take thousands of years to decompose, and it is not easily recycled. As a result, it often ends up in landfills, where it takes up valuable space, and while the material itself is chemically stable and therefore does not cause damage, the sheer amount of it still presents a problem.

G

Like most things, glass as a material has its limitations. It is not always the best choice due to its fragility, weight, and cost. Nowadays, there are materials that can serve as a substitute to glass, offering the same or better performance depending on the application. One of them is polycarbonate. It is a thermoplastic that is lightweight, strong, and shatter-resistant – it does not break into multiple small pieces if damaged. It is often used in place of glass for things like bulletproof windows, safety shields or eye protection. Another sphere of wide adoption is in the automotive industry, where its shatterproof qualities proved irreplaceable when making headlights, taillights, and windshields.

H

So, what does the future hold for glass? A lot of uncertainty is the only thing that can be said for sure! Even though glass itself is more eco-friendly than comparable materials such as plastics and its many derivatives, making, transporting and disposing of it entails higher financial and ecological overheads. This is the main reason why the glass bottle that ruled the supermarket shelves till late nineties is a rare sight nowadays, replaced by a more versatile, even if less charismatic plastic counterpart. And it's just a taste of things to come.

Questions 14-21

Reading Passage 1 has eight paragraphs labelled **A-I**.

Choose the most suitable headings for paragraphs **B-I** from the list of headings below.

Write the appropriate numbers (**I-XII**) in boxes **14-20** on your answer sheet.

One of the headings has been done for you as an example.

Note: There are more headings than paragraphs, so you will not use all of them.

Example: Paragraph A — Answer III

List of Headings

I Glass in nature

II Bottles to be banned

III Underappreciated

IV How to use glass

V Taking a closer look

IELTS Reading – Practice Test 16

VI Dim prospects

VIII Through the looking glass of time

IX Taking a toll on nature

X A thousand applications

XI Not without a fault

XII Irreplaceable – or is it?

14 Paragraph B

15 Paragraph C

16 Paragraph D

17 Paragraph E

18 Paragraph F

19 Paragraph G

20 Paragraph H

Questions 21-24

In boxes 21-25 on your answer sheet, write

YES if the statement agrees with the claims of the writer

NO if the statement contradicts the claims of the writer

NOT GIVEN if it is impossible to say what the writer thinks about this

21 Glass is not the first thing that comes to mind as a groundbreaking invention

22 As a material, glass became popular owing to its practicality when used outside

23 Iron smelting was invented before production of glass was possible

24 Introducing additives to the mixture enabled glass to have various desirable properties

Questions 25-29

Choose the appropriate letters A- C and write them in boxes 9-15 on your answer sheet.

25 Glass that occurs naturally

A Shares few desirable properties with artificial glass

B Can mostly be found in desert landscapes

C Is prized for its unique properties

26 The main ecological concern when it comes to glass is that

A Its production creates an undesirable by-product

B Glass fragments contain sulfuric acid

C Burying it underground requires special safety measures

27 Polycarbonate is chosen over traditional glass primarily because

A It is cheaper to make

B It provides certain safety benefits

C It is eco-friendly

28 What does the author imply in the closing sentence of the text?

A The taste of liquids held in bottles is likely to be affected by plastic

B Bottles are likely to find new application in the future

C The replacement trend is likely to continue

IELTS Reading – Practice Test 16

Reading Passage 3

You should spend about 20 minutes on Questions 29-40, which are based on Reading Passage 3 below.

Monkeys are fascinating creatures that have been a source of wonder and curiosity for many people throughout history. These intelligent animals capture our imagination with their impressive agility, social behaviour, and even their similarities to humans – unsurprisingly so, as they have been scientifically proven to be our distant genetic relatives.

This relation is primarily based on their shared genetic makeup. Studies have shown that monkeys and humans have a high percentage of genetic similarity, which indicates a common evolutionary ancestry. Additionally, both monkeys and humans belong to the same scientific order, primates. This classification means that they possess many anatomical and behavioural characteristics that are not found in other animal groups. Fossil evidence has also provided insights into the evolutionary relationship between monkeys and humans. Fossils of early primates, such as Proconsul and Aegyptopithecus, have features that resemble both monkeys and humans, suggesting that they were ancestral to both groups.

There are more than 200 species of monkeys, and each one has its own distinctive traits, ranging from the red-tailed monkey's long tail to the mandrill's colourful face. But today we would like to focus on three notable species: the chimpanzee, the howler monkey, and the spider monkey.

The Chimpanzee

Chimpanzees are among the most intelligent primates, with cognitive abilities that are comparable to those of human children. They are natural problem-solvers and boast a high level of emotional intelligence. In fact, studies have shown that chimpanzees are capable of understanding the emotions of others and even displaying empathy towards their peers.

Chimpanzees are found in the forests of central and western Africa, where they live in groups of up to 100 individuals. Such groups normally have leaders, either male or female chimpanzees. Chimpanzees are primarily herbivorous – but will also eat insects, birds, and small mammals when the opportunity arises – effectively making them omnivorous.

One of the most notable characteristics of chimpanzees is their ability to use tools. They have been observed using sharp sticks to extract insects from tree bark, bashing stones on nuts to crack them open, and even wrapping their faces in big leaves as protection from rain! Some chimpanzees have been known to fashion primitive weapons such as spears and use them to hunt small game.

Scientists have observed a wide range of social interaction among chimpanzees, including grooming, hugging, and kissing. They also engage in aggressive behaviors, such as screaming, hitting, and biting, when there is conflict within the group. While the latter is not indicative of animals of higher intellectual order, the former shows signs of the empathy mentioned earlier, which is generally uncommon among animals.

Sadly, chimpanzees are endangered due to habitat loss and hunting. Many are also captured for the illegal pet trade, which has contributed to their decline. However, conservation efforts are underway to protect these remarkable animals and their habitats.

IELTS Reading – Practice Test 16

The Howler Monkey

Howler monkeys are one of the most vocal primates, and their distinctive calls can be heard up to three miles away. They are, in fact, one of the loudest animals on Earth, rivaled by much bigger blue whale and lion. They are found in the forests of Central and South America and can live up to 20 years in the wild.

The howler monkey is a large and slow-moving animal, with males weighing up to 22 pounds and females weighing up to 16 pounds. They are primarily herbivorous and feed on leaves, fruits, and flowers.

Howler monkeys are arboreal animals, meaning they spend most of their time in trees. They have a prehensile tail, which acts like another limb and enables them to grasp onto branches tightly. This feature is particularly important for mother monkeys, who use their tails to carry their young as they move from tree to tree.

Howler monkeys are also notable for their social behaviours. They live in groups of up to 18 individuals, which consist of a dominant male, several females, and their offspring. The male is responsible for protecting his group from predators, while the females take care of the young. They are also very territorial, with males using their howl to intimidate as well as to signal their position. Interestingly enough, female Howlers do not howl at all.

In terms of conservation, howler monkeys face a variety of threats; the biggest one is deforestation of Amazon rainforest, their prime habitat.

The Spider Monkey

Spider monkeys are known for their long limbs and tails, which enable them to move through trees with great agility. They are found in the forests of Central and South America, where they live in groups of up to 35 individuals. Similar to the Howler Monkey, they are chiefly arboreal, mostly living in the trees, preferring not to get down to the ground without a compelling reason.

The name comes from their tail, which they effectively use as fifth limb that facilitates locomotion and helps them clear various obstacles with surprising ease. Because of the five limbs taking part in the process they visually resemble a spider crawling.

Spider monkeys are omnivorous and have a varied diet of fruits, leaves, flowers, and insects. They have a distinctive jaw structure that enables them to crack open hard nuts and seeds without having to resort to tools for that.

Mother spider monkeys carry their young on their backs for the first few months of their lives, similarly to Howler Monkey using their tail as a safety belt for their offspring. Once the baby is old enough, it will learn how to move from tree to tree and eventually become independent.

The Spider Monkey is one species that especially suffers from forest fragmentation. This is a situation when a continuous forest breaks up into smaller and isolated patches due to human activities such as agriculture, urbanization, and road building.

Despite their stark differences, there is one disturbing similarity among these three species. All three, in one way or another, facing the risk of extinction – a situation that is shameful, especially given human understanding of how important biodiversity is.

Questions 29-36

Complete the table below.

Choose **NO MORE THAN ONE WORD AND/OR A NUMBER** for each answer.

IELTS Reading – Practice Test 16

	Chimpanzee	Howler Monkey	Spider Monkey
Habitat	Central and Western Africa	Central and South Americas	Central and South Americas, predominantly 29 _____
Social and diet habits	Groups of up to 30 _____ specimen; largely omnivorous	Diet is mostly 31 _____ . Males live with several females	Omnivorous, has no need for 32 _____ to eat nuts. Live in larger groups
Peculiarity	Demonstrate 33 _____ towards others; highly intelligent	Impressive 34 _____ abilities	Extremely developed tail that aids 35 _____ as well as ensuring offspring safety
Endangerment status	Endangered	Loss of 36 _____	Suffer from forest fragmentation

Questions 37-40

For each question, choose the appropriate letter A-C

37. Monkeys and human are believed to be related because

- A They are genetically identical
- B They are uniquely similar in certain respects
- C They possess anatomic resemblance

38. One peculiarity that makes Chimpanzee stand out is the fact they

- A Like humans, make use of makeshift tools
- B Prefer to live in larger social groups
- C Favour mostly plant-based foods

39. What behavioural activities point at higher cognitive development among chimpanzees?

- A grooming, kissing and hugging
- B biting, screaming and hitting
- C neither of these

40. Which monkey species is mentioned to have clearly defined gender roles?

- A the chimpanzee
- B the howler monkey
- C the spider monkey

Answer Keys

1 **TRUE**. Paragraph one, beginning of sentence three—the word 'bulky' is key here. It means big and taking up a lot of space.

2 **FALSE**. Paragraph one, sentence two. The year 1973 is connected to the invention of the device. While it does not directly say whether it was sold in the same year, later it is stated that the first commercially available phone came later, in 1983.

3 **TRUE**. Paragraph two, first sentence. It is important to understand the verb 'to pioneer' here to get the answer right.

4 **NOT GIVEN**. Sentence 4 in the second paragraph is a trap. It does not say that the USA was the first to have mobile coverage. Instead, it names the Motorola network as the first in that country.

5 **NOT GIVEN**. No such information is given; the only mention of voice is in relation to its speakerphone.

6 **FALSE**. Paragraph 3, sentence 4. Nokia was the one to introduce camera technology to the mobile phone world.

IELTS Reading – Practice Test 16

7 FALSE. Paragraph three, sentences 4 and 5 state and develop the idea of Nokia's involvement regarding mobile internet networks.

8, 9 C, E. C - Paragraph 4, sentence 3 says that the model was 'an instant success'. E - 'shaping the phones of the future' in the same paragraphs hints at the impact the company has on the industry.

10 risks. Paragraph 6, sentence 2. Note the plural form - it should be used just like in the text; otherwise, you might not get your points at the IELTS exam even though you got the word right. A word you might want to use is 'drawbacks', but it does not collocate well with the verb 'face', so it shouldn't be used here.

11 (the) radiation. Paragraph 6, sentence 2. Another easy way to understand what word to use is through collocation. In this sentence, it is the verb 'to emit', which is normally used with things like light, particles, gases, and so on.

12 distracted. Paragraph 6, sentence 3. People get too distracted, and it leads to something unpredictable and possibly terrible.

13 security. The last sentence of paragraph 6 describes cases where personal or other sensitive information leaks can be a security issue.

14 V - Taking a closer look. The paragraph focuses on the properties that the material has. Do not be tricked into picking the heading 'X - A thousand applications' because of the word 'application' at the end of the paragraph. It is only a minor point, whereas a heading should focus on the main idea of the paragraph.

15 VIII - Through the looking glass of time. An overview of glass evolution throughout human history is given, with various stages of development and various emerging techniques.

16 I - Glass in nature. Natural occurrences of glass are given the most attention in this paragraph. Heading 'XI - Taking a toll on nature' doesn't fit, although some might feel like choosing it if they do not fully understand the meaning of the word 'toll'.

17 X - A thousand applications. A self-explanatory heading, it lists the ways glass comes in handy in a handful of industries. Heading XII shouldn't be used here because there is no mention of alternatives to the material.

Moreover, the heading is used later. This is why it is always a good idea to consider headings you think you have already found uses for in the test.

18 IX - Taking a toll on nature. The harm and damage that glass leads to are mentioned. Note that 'XI - not without a fault' is not optimal here as it only vaguely hints at the fact that there are some problems associated with glass.

19 XII - Irreplaceable – or is it? It makes it much easier to make a choice when you know the word 'substitute' - which means to replace something with something else. Heading XI doesn't fit, although you might feel like choosing it based on the first sentence. However, it only introduces the general idea but does not expand on the problems with the glass. Instead, it offers alternatives to this material.

20 VI - Dim prospects. The phrase of the heading means that the future is not clear, but probably not too good for glass. Phrases like 'a lot of uncertainty' and 'just a taste of things to come' only serve to support this idea. Glass is likely to have an even smaller presence in the future.

21 YES. The first paragraph tells us how, if asked about life-changing inventions, people are much more likely to name things like the Internet or the wheel. Glass is not something they are likely to mention in such a situation.

22 NOT GIVEN. Nothing of relevance is mentioned. While it is extensively used outside as well as inside, no particular reasons for its popularity in that application are given.

23 NO. Paragraph C says that the invention of glass 'predates' iron smelting. This means that it comes before it. Glass had been invented before iron smelting became possible.

24 YES. At least one example of that is given at the end of Paragraph C, where the ancient Romans are said to have used various additives to make stained glass.

IELTS Reading – Practice Test 16

25 A. Paragraph D mentions that naturally occurring glass has a few attributes similar to those of man-made examples. It has a much different shape, is difficult to see through, and therefore hardly has any uses. In fact, it is difficult to even know it is glass.

26 A. Paragraph F focuses on the undesirable effects of glass production. Carbon dioxide is the by-product mentioned in the answer. Answer B doesn't fit; it is not the main concern, as it is implied that sulfuric acid can be safely neutralised. We can't choose answer C as nothing of the sort is stated in the text.

27 B. Paragraph G says that glass, when broken, creates many dangerous sharp fragments, which is not true for polycarbonate. Answers A and C are not mentioned.

28 C. 'Taste of things to come' is a figurative expression that means that we are likely to see more of what is happening now. Answer A shouldn't be used as the word 'taste' is not literal in this context.

29 arboreal. The last sentence of the first paragraph relating to that species. Note that often with table-style questions you will end up going back and forth between paragraphs.

30 100. Sentence one of paragraph two relating to the species. The word 'group' hints at the fact that a figure will be needed in the answer.

31 herbivorous. If you do not know the word, then understanding that the context requires an adjective should make it easier for you.

32 tools. The word 'nuts' is a good [keyword](#) here as it cannot be synonymised and can be easily found in the text.

33 empathy. 'Towards others' in the table is a hint that the word used refers to communication between specimens.

34 vocal. Given in the very first sentence of the paragraph, this word hides in plain sight. Note that the adjective 'vocal' does not necessarily refer to one's ability to sing. Instead, it refers to sounds produced by a living thing.

35 locomotion/movement. 'To facilitate' is a synonym for 'help' and means 'to make something easier or quicker'.

36 habitat. The last paragraph focuses on the problem of a declining population. Habitat loss is the process of losing territory that an animal considers its home because of various favourable conditions.

37 B. Paragraph Two focuses on the reasons monkeys and humans are believed to be related. Answer C is not as detailed and is therefore not optimal. Answer A is wrong, as the two species are not fully identical genetically.

38 A. Answers B and C are not unique and do not make chimpanzees special compared to other monkey species.

39 A. It is said that such behaviour is uncommon among other animals and points to higher intelligence (Paragraph 7).

40 B. Paragraphs 11 and 12 focus on the roles of both genders in the social structure of howler monkeys.

Vocabulary

The vocabulary below is meant to help you with the more difficult words. If the word isn't on the list then you are either supposed to know it or it is too specific to be worth learning and you don't have to know it to answer the question. Symbols in brackets mean part of speech (see bottom of the list). Sentences in italics give examples of usage for some more complex words and phrases.

And remember — you are not given a vocabulary list (or a dictionary) at your real exam.

Section 1

Ill-at-easy (adj) - uncomfortable, nervous. *Giving public speeches has been making me ill-at-ease since primary school.*

Ubiquitous (adj) - something that can be found anywhere because of its popularity, usefulness or other reason. *Street food restaurants are ubiquitous in larger cities nowadays.*

IELTS Reading – Practice Test 16

Bulky (adj) - heavy, large and difficult to use or move because of that. *We decided to leave our bulky furniture in the old flat because of transportation costs.*

Sleek (adj) - (here) stylish and fresh-looking.

Cellular (adj) - relating to or connected to cells.

Stringent (adj) - strict and unforgiving. *Her parents created a very stringent environment for her where any mistake or fault never went unpunished.*

Reception (n) - (here) ability to receive the signal of the network. *The reception indoors is very poor in this part of the country.*

Pave the way for (phr v) - to make it easier for something or somebody that does the same thing later. *The Toyota Prius paved the way for hybrid vehicles all around the globe.*

Be credited for something - to give recognition for some achievement. *She was justifiably credited for having created the first shopping app.*

Immense (adj) - extremely large. *The immense contribution of the president to world peace.*

Sport (v) - to have something and be proud of it.

Instrumental (adj) - helping in achieving something. *A basic understanding of psychology is instrumental in creating a good teacher.*

Renowned (adj) - extremely well-known, especially for something good. *A renowned poet of his time, he was celebrated for how genuine and down-to-earth his works were.*

Redefine (v) - to change something dramatically, often altering the fundamentals.

Small wonder (phr) - it should come as no surprise. *With their unmatched speed and strength, it is small wonder that bears have almost no natural threats except poachers.*

Disposable income - the amount of money a person has left after all the essential expenditures (such as bills and groceries) are paid for.

Boast (v) - (here - about numbers) to show high levels of something. *This class boasts the highest average grade across all schools in the area.*

Culprit (n) - a person or a thing that is responsible for some problem. *The culprit for the poor drivability of the car turned out to be a deflated front tyre.*

Bring about (phr v) - to be a reason for something happening. *The economic crisis brought about unemployment and increased immigration to neighbouring countries.*

Wrap one's mind around something (phr v) - to understand something, especially something that is difficult to believe because it seems very unlikely.

Headway (n) - progress. *Unfortunately, no headway was achieved by our scientists over the past three years.*

Full-fledged (adj) - fully functional or developed. *This miniature computer can be used just like a full-fledged desktop PC.*

Section 2

Set out to do smth (phr v) - to be determined to do something, to start your attempts at something.

Respondent (n) - in polls and surveys respondents are people answering the questions. *The survey had almost two hundred respondents under 20 years old.*

Ubiquity (n) - the condition of being present everywhere.

Underdog (n) - a person or a thing that is unappreciated or unknown, especially if it is not justified. *Steve was the underdog of his class - neither teachers nor students liked him, despite his clearly prominent academic abilities.*

Amorphous (adj) - with a clearly defined structure or form.

IELTS Reading – Practice Test 16

Brittle (adj) - easily broken, not strong. *Over time, rubber gets hard and eventually turns brittle, falling apart at the slightest touch.*

Conduct (v) - (here) to allow something to pass freely, i.e. heat, light or electricity. *Copper conducts heat well, and this property makes it perfect for radiators as well as other heat-dissipation purposes.*

Expand / contract - to become bigger or smaller, respectively. As we breathe in, our lungs expand. When we exhale, they contract.

Predate (v) - if thing A predates thing B, it means that thing A appeared before thing B. *Few people know that electric engines predate the more conventional internal combustion ones.*

Beads (n) - (here) small, round-shaped decorative objects worn as an ornament or decoration. *The famous stories of American colonisers trading glass beads for gold still cause outrage.*

Furnace (n) - an enclosed space where fire creates extremely high temperatures with the purpose of melting down ore and other metal-containing objects.

Molten (adj) - turned to liquid through exposure to high temperatures. *Molten metal was white-hot and you could feel the heat even several feet away from it.*

Artisan (n) - a highly-skilled craftsman such as a glass blower, a blacksmith or an instrument maker.

Uninitiated (adj) - if a person is uninitiated, it means they have no knowledge of the topic.

Translucent (adj) - as described in the text, it means that it lets the light pass, but it is very hard to see objects on the other side of it.

Hallmark (n) - a characteristic quality of something, used positively. *High build quality and longevity are hallmarks of German cars.*

Indispensable (adj) - vital, can't be done without. *Your help in the negotiation process proved indispensable.*

Fossil fuels - oil and gas-based fuels such as petrol, diesel and others. *Fossil fuel vehicles are projected to go out of production by the middle of 21st century.*

Dispose of (v) - to get rid of something that is no longer needed. *Dispose of your waste responsibly to reduce its environmental impact.*

Landfill (n) - a designated area where garbage is transported for decomposing.

Shatter (v) - to break into many pieces.

Entail (v) - cause, bring about. *Getting a degree in college entails lots of academic work, such as writing term papers and doing research.*

Section 3

Makeup (n) - (here) nature. *His makeup and upbringing would never allow him to be rude to others, especially people he didn't know well.*

Fossil (n) - underground remains of dead organisms such as animals or even plants that lived a long time ago.

Ancestral (adj) - relating to ancestry, i.e. existing before and having genetic relations. *Ancestral ties between humans and monkeys are hard to deny due to abundant scientific evidence.*

Species (n) - a class of plants or animals whose genetic similarity allows them to breed with one another. *They say that crows are one of the smartest avian species.*

Cognitive (adj) - relating to the mind and brain. *Cognitive development in kids has been proven to benefit from exposure to foreign languages.*

Peers (n) - if somebody is your peer it means they are the same age. *The older I grow, the more difficult communication with my peers becomes.*

Herbivorous, omnivorous (adj) - with diets consisting of plants or both plants and meat, respectively. Animals

IELTS Reading – Practice Test 16

that eat meat exclusively are referred to as carnivorous.

Fashion (v) - to create something, especially something simple, using things at hand. *I fashioned a meal from the leftover groceries I found in the fridge.*

Grooming (n) - the action done to keep or make oneself or somebody else clean. *Cats can often be seen grooming themselves, especially if they have nothing better to do at the moment.*

Indicative (adj) - usual for or pointing at some quality. *A developed writing system is indicative of a high level of development in a civilisation.*

Underway (adj) - has already started and is currently in progress. *The construction of the new office block is underway and is planned to be finished by late October.*

Vocal (adj) - (here) loud.

Prehensile (adj) - used for grasping or gripping something as a way to support or aid.

Offspring (n) - (especially with animals) children or young. *The mother's primary role in the group is to look after the offspring, both her own and others.*

Intimidate (v) - to frighten, to make somebody feel scared. *Animals prefer to intimidate their opponents instead of going into open confrontation with them.*

Howl (v) - to make a loud crying sound.

Arboreal (adj) - living in trees. *Arboreal animals choose to come down to the ground only when foraging for food.*

Compelling (adj) - convincing or serious. *Without compelling arguments, you cannot prove your innocence to the judge.*

Facilitate (v) - to make something easier, to help.

Stark (adj) - clear, easily noticeable. *The stark contrast between the lifestyles of first- and third-world people.*