

UNIT III: READING COMPREHENSION

General Strategies untuk Reading Comprehension:

1. Kenali petunjuk/ instruksi pengerjaan soal. Petunjuk pengerjaan soal dalam TOEFL tes itu sama, maka tidak perlu menghabiskan waktu untuk membaca petunjuk pengerjaan teks. Kenali dan hafalkan instruksi soal sebelum hari tesnya.
2. Jangan menghabiskan waktu terlalu lama membaca teks atau membaca terlalu detail karena pertanyaan bisa dijawab tanpa pembacaan mendetail.
3. Jangan khawatir dengan teks yang topiknya tidak dikuasai. Semua informasi yang dibutuhkan ada dalam teks tersebut.
4. Jangan menghabiskan waktu memikirkan pertanyaan yang jawabnya tidak diketahui. Lanjutkan ke soal berikutnya. Kemudian, lengkapi jawaban apabila masih ada waktu.
5. Lengkapi seluruh jawaban sebelum waktu habis. Dalam tes TOEFL tidak ada pengurangan nilai untuk jawaban yang salah. Oleh karena itu isi seluruh jawaban yang mungkin dapat menaikkan skor.

Section One: Main Idea and Details Questions

a. Main idea

Main idea atau gagasan utama adalah salah satu pertanyaan yang selalu muncul dalam soal TOEFL. Pertanyaan mengenai main idea dapat ditanyakan dengan beragam cara, misalnya pertanyaan tentang topik, subjek, judul, atau ide pokok.

- a. What is the main topic of the paragraph?
- b. What is the subject of the passage?
- c. What is the primary topic expressed in the passage?
- d. What is the author's main point in the passage?
- e. With what is the author primarily concerned?
- f. Which of the following would be the best title?
- g. the passage mainly deals with
- h. What is the main theme in the passage?

Tips dan Trik

- a. Baca kalimat pertama dari setiap paragraf dan tidak perlu membaca secara mendetail dan mendalam.
- b. Cari persamaan tema yang muncul dan temukan kata-kata kunci (*key word*) dalam setiap paragraf.
- c. Skimming paragraf untuk memastikan tema yang didapat sesuai dengan isi bacaan
- d. Eliminasi pilihan jawaban yang terlihat salah dan fokus pada pilihan yang sesuai dengan tema yang didapat. Sering kali terdapat dua pilihan yang keduanya terdapat dalam teks. Pilih yang tepat yang tidak terlalu luas atau terlalu sempit dari tema yang dibicarakan dalam teks.

Contoh soal:

- 1 Most of the ice on the Earth, close to 90 percent of it, is covering the surface of the continent Antarctica. it does not snow very much in Antarctica, but whatever snow does fall remains and grows deeper and deeper. In some areas
- 5 of Antarctica, the ice has perhaps been around for as much as a million years and now is more than two miles deep.
1. The main idea of the passage is that
 - (A) The earth is a cold planet.
 - (B) Most of the Earth's ice is found in Antarctica
 - (C) It snows more in Antarctica than any other place on Earth.
 - (D) Antarctica is only two miles wide but is 90 percent ice.
 2. The best title for the passage is
 - (A) Snowfall in Antarctica
 - (B) The Icy Earth
 - (C) The Cold, Cold Snow
 - (D) The Cause of Antarctica's Ice Pack

Review:

1. Jawaban (A) salah karena teks bukan hanya membicarakan *earth* tapi lebih spesifik ke Antarctica. Jawaban (C) salah karena bertentangan dengan kalimat kedua. Jawaban (D) salah karena *two miles* bukan luas tapi kedalaman salju. Jawaban yang tepat adalah (B). Hal ini terlihat jelas di kalimat pertama dalam paragraf.

2. Jawaban (B) dan (C) salah karena terlalu luas yang dibahas fokus ke Antarctica. Jawaban (A) salah karena bertentangan dengan informasi dalam teks. Jawaban yang tepat adalah (D) karena teks menjelaskan terjadinya *ice pack* di Antarctica.

Latihan Soal

- 1 Procrastinators are people who have a chronic habit of putting things off, usually until the last minute and sometimes until it is too late altogether. The most common reason that procrastinators themselves give for their habit, which they are
5 usually quite willing to talk about even if not willing to change, is that they are lazy. Other typical excuses are that they are undisciplined, brilliant but disorganized, or very poor at organizing their time.

- Some procrastinators, however, almost against their very
10 nature, actually get as far as trying to do something about their problem and seek help. Recent research with such people seems to suggest that their difficulties are much more complex than the procrastinators themselves think. The general conclusions are that such people have a vulnerable sense of
15 self-worth, are particularly fearful of failure, and deliberately put things off precisely so that they never leave themselves time to produce their best work. The reason for their delaying tactics is that, since they do everything at the last moment and under pressure, the procrastinators can retain
20 illusion of brilliance without ever having to put it to the test.

1. The main idea in the first paragraph is
(A) The nature of procrastination
(B) The undisciplined character of procrastinators
(C) That disorganization is the procrastinator's main problem
(D) The reasons procrastinators give for their behavior

2. What is the Main idea of the second paragraph?
 - (A) How procrastinators have an illusion of brilliance
 - (B) How procrastinators seek help
 - (C) Research findings regarding procrastinators
 - (D) That procrastinators always leave everything until the last moment

3. What is the best title for the passage above?
 - (A) The Chronic Habit of Procrastination
 - (B) Procrastination: Excuses and Reality
 - (C) Disorganization, the True Cause of Procrastination
 - (D) Procrastination: Never Do Today What You Can Put Off until Tomorrow

4. Which of the following would the author be most likely to agree?
 - (A) Procrastinators are usually unaware of the true causes of their predicament.
 - (B) Laziness, lack of discipline, and poor organization of time are the major causes of procrastination.
 - (C) One thing most procrastinators' do is trying to seek help for their problem.
 - (D) A procrastinator would automatically fail any real test of his brilliance.

b. Details dan Inferences

Details adalah pertanyaan yang menyangkut rincian pada fakta atau data tertentu yang terdapat dalam paragraf. *Details stated* dan *unstated*. *Stated* artinya dinyatakan atau informasi yang ditanyakan terdapat dalam teks. Sebaliknya, *unstated* artinya informasi yang tidak terdapat dalam teks. Sedangkan *Inferences* adalah informasi yang tidak dinyatakan tapi terdapat dalam teks secara tersirat.

Bagaimana mengidentifikasi pertanyaan yang jawabannya ada dalam text	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - According to the passage... - It is stated in the passage - The passage indicates that... - The author mentions that... - Which of the following is true
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Bagaimana mengidentifikasi pertanyaan yang informasinya tidak ada dalam text	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Which of the following is not stated....? - Which of the following is not mentioned? - Which of the following is not discussed....? - All of the following are true except....?
Bagaimana mengidentifikasi pertanyaan yang tersirat dalam teks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is implied the passage that.... - It can be inferred from the passage.... - It is most likely that - What probably happened

Tips dan Trik

- a. Pilih kata kunci yang ada dalam pertanyaan.
- b. Skim (cari dengan cepat) paragraf yang terdapat kata kunci.
- c. Baca kalimat yang terdapat kata kunci tersebut dengan seksama.
- d. perhatikan jawaban yang sesuai dengan informasi dalam paragraf. Eliminasi jawaban yang tidak sesuai dengan informasi yang terdapat dalam teks.
- e. Pilih jawaban yang sesuai dengan informasi yang ada di paragraf.

Contoh soal:

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.

1. According to the passage, what happens during the 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 geologist of a past ice age?
- (A) Ice
 - (B) melting glaciers
 - (C) U-shaped valleys
 - (D) substances from other areas

Number 4-5

Elizabeth Cochrane Seaman was an American journalist at the turn of the century who wrote for the newspaper *New York World* under the pen name Nellie Bly, a name which was taken from the Stephen Foster song Nelly Bly. She achieved fame for her exposes and in particular for the bold and adventuresome way that she obtained her stories.

She felt that the best way to get the real story was from the inside rather than outside observer who could be treated to a prettified version of reality. On one occasion she pretended to be a thief so that she would get arrested and see for herself how female prisoners were really treated. On another occasion she faked mental illness. In order to be admitted to a mental hospital to get the real picture on the treatment of mental patients.

4. Which of the following is NOT true about Nellie Bly?
- (A) Nellie Bly's real name was Elizabeth Cochrane Seaman.
 - (B) Nellie Bly was mentally ill.
 - (C) The name Nellie Bly came from song.
 - (D) The name Nellie Bly was used on articles that Seaman wrote.
5. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as something that Nellie Bly did to get a good story?
- (A) She acted like a thief.
 - (B) She got arrested by the police.
 - (C) She pretended to be ill.
 - (D) She worked as a doctor in a mental hospital.

Number 6-8

The most common last name in English-speaking world is Smith, which was taken from the job of working with metals. A silversmith, for example, is someone who works with metal silver. Historical records indicate that the use of this last name is at least 700 years old. Today, there are more than 3.3 million Smiths living in the United States and perhaps another million Smiths living in other English-speaking countries worldwide.

6. It can be inferred from the passage that family names
 - (A) were always taken from the area where a family lived
 - (B) were short names
 - (C) had little or no meaning
 - (D) could be taken from jobs
7. Which of the following is implied about the Smith family name?
 - (A) It is definitely not more than 700 years old.
 - (B) It existed 600 years ago.
 - (C) It did not exist 500 years ago.
 - (D) It definitely was not in use 1,000 years ago.
8. In England there are probably
 - (A) more smith than there are in the United States
 - (B) more than a million Smiths
 - (C) fewer than a million Smiths
 - (D) no families with the name Smith

Review:

1. Jawaban (C) terlihat dari kalimat “*ice covered the extensive areas of the Earth*”.
2. Jawaban (B). Kata kunci *ice age* dan *recognized* terdapat dalam kalimat ke 2 dan ke 3.
3. Jawaban (D) terlihat dari kalimat ke 2.
4. Jawaban (B) karena informasi dalam teks *fake mental illness*, adapun pilihan (A), (C), dan (D) terdapat dalam teks.
5. Jawaban (D) karena Nellie Bly bukan menjadi *Doctor* tetapi menjadi pasien.
6. Jawaban (D), terlihat di kalimat pertama. Kata kunci *family name* sinonim dengan *last name*.
7. Jawaban (B) terlihat di kalimat ke 3, *at least 700 years old*.
8. Jawaban (B), terlihat dari kalimat ke 4, *another million Smiths living in living in other English-speaking countries worldwide*.

Latihan Soal

- 1 The First Amendment to the American Constitution declares freedom of the press to all people. Although this right was not officially adopted until 1791, the famous Zenger trial of 1735 laid the groundwork for insuring this precious freedom.
- 5 John Peter Zenger emigrated as a teenager from Germany. In 1733, he began publishing the *New York Weekly Journal*.

The following year, he was arrested for writing a story about the crown-appointed governor of New York. While Zenger was imprisoned for nine months, his wife dutifully published the newspaper every day, bravely telling the truth about the corrupt government officials sent by the king to govern the colonies.

Finally Zenger's long awaited trial took place. The hostile judge dismissed Zenger's local lawyers, making it necessary for his wife to seek out Andrew Hamilton, a prominent Philadelphia lawyer. Persuaded by Hamilton, the jury bravely returned a not-guilty verdict, defying the judge's order for conviction.

As a result of determination and bravery on the part of the colonists, a lasting victory for freedom of the press was gained by a young immigrant.

1. John Peter Zenger was a
 - (A) Corrupt governor of New York
 - (B) Famous lawyer
 - (C) Brave newspaper publisher
 - (D) Hostile judge
2. What political problem existed in the colonies at that time?
 - (A) Government officials were corrupt
 - (B) Newspapers exaggerated the truth about the political officials
 - (C) Lawyers were hostile to witnesses
 - (D) All newspaper publishers were imprisoned
3. How long did it take after the Zenger trial before the concept of freedom of the press was officially adopted?
 - (A) 9 months
 - (B) 1 year
 - (C) 56 years
 - (D) 68 years
4. All of the following are true EXCEPT
 - (A) Despite Zenger's imprisonment, his newspaper continued to be published
 - (B) Andrew Hamilton encouraged the jury to fight for freedom
 - (C) The jury obeyed the judge's order and convicted Zenger
 - (D) The king controlled the colonies through his own appointed rulers

5. Why was Peter Zenger arrested?
 - (A) He emigrated from Germany.
 - (B) His wife published his newspaper for him
 - (C) He wrote a story about the governor of New York
 - (D) He persuaded a jury to defy the judge's orders
6. It can be inferred that the judge was hostile toward Peter Zenger because the judge
 - (A) Represented the ideas of the king
 - (B) Hated newspaper publishers
 - (C) Didn't like interference with the constitution
 - (D) Had appointed the governor about whom Zenger wrote
7. The main idea of the passage is
 - (A) Andrew Hamilton gave Americans freedom of the press.
 - (B) Peter Zenger's persistent fight paved the way for freedom of the press.
 - (C) Judges don't always get juries to agree with them.
 - (D) Peter Zenger's trial prepared the way for juror to defy judges' orders.

Number 8-12

Before ballpoint pens or fountain pens, pens were made from goose feathers. These goose feathers, called quills, were sharpened and dipped into inkwells, where they absorbed enough ink to write a few words. It was necessary to keep an inkwell very close by, as frequent dipping was necessary.

These quill pens were one of the earliest products "designed" specifically for left-and right-handed people. Feathers from the left wing of the goose worked best for right-handers because of the way that the feathers arched. Feathers from the right wing were preferred by left-handers.

8. Which of the following is the best title for this passage?
 - (A) Early Ballpoint and Fountain Pens
 - (B) Quill Pens for Lefties and Righties
 - (C) Where Quill Pens Came From
 - (D) Various uses for Goose Feathers
9. According to the passage, a quill came from?
 - (A) a tree
 - (B) a bird
 - (C) a piece of metal
 - (D) a fountain pen

10. The passage indicates that a quill pen could hold enough ink to write
- (A) one or two pages
 - (B) for about one hour
 - (C) a couple of words
 - (D) numerous sentences
11. Which of the following is NOT true about quill pens, according to the passage?
- (A) Left-handers were unable to use quill pens
 - (B) Left-handed people generally preferred quills from the right wing
 - (C) Right-handers could use quill pens
 - (D) Right-handed people generally preferred quills from the left wing
12. It can be inferred from the passage that quill pens
- (A) are still used regularly today
 - (B) are preferred over ballpoint pens
 - (C) are the best pens for left-handers
 - (D) are no longer used much