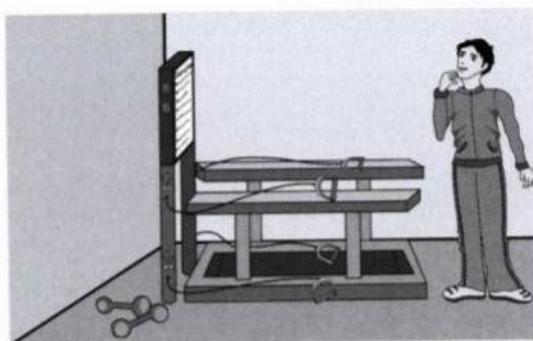


Exam information | Short-answer questions

In the exam, you may have to look for facts in a passage and give short answers to questions. You will be told how many words you are allowed to use in the answers. A number can be written either as a word, e.g. *four*, or as a number, e.g. *4*, and counts as one word. A word with a hyphen in it, e.g. *mother-in-law*, counts as one word. You will not be required to use contractions.

1 How many words are there in these sentences?

- 1 She keeps fit by running after her two five-year-olds.
- 2 To use the gym equipment safely, follow the step-by-step instructions.
- 3 The Internet is helping the over-sixties to find up-to-date health information.
- 4 They are offering exercise classes 3 mornings a week for the part-time workers.



Exam tip

To keep to the maximum number of words, it can help to change a word form. Use a noun as an adjective *the documents about the house* → *the house documents*, or to omit a verb *there is a variety of reasons* → *various reasons*.

2 The following instructions were given in an IELTS reading exam: 'Using NO MORE THAN FOUR WORDS for each, answer the following questions'.

Look at the students' answers in the table below and make them shorter if necessary.

Question	Students' answers	Short answer
1 What were his parents afraid of?	there was a possibility that he would have problems with his health (12 words)	his possible health problems (4 words)
2 When did they first find out there was a problem?	when doctors did a medical examination during the mother's pregnancy	
3 How does his illness affect him?	at the moment he is not affected by it at all but he needs to take medication	
4 What will happen in the future?	nobody knows that yet	