READING PRACTICE

LEAD-IN

0 1 **A common topic in the exam is 'home'. Put these words under the correct heading in the table.**

~~apartment~~	beach	bungalow	castle	ceiling	cellar	remote island
city centre	countryside	dining room	floor	garage	stone	glamorous
leather	mountains	mansion	marble	modern	simple	skyscraper
spacious	staircase	traditional	wood	window	gym	

Location	Building type	Style	Rooms	Parts of a room	Materials
	apartment				

0 2 **In pairs, use the vocabulary from exercise 1 to help you describe your dream home.**

My dream house would be on the beach near the sea. It would be a simple bungalow with wooden floors. It would have a large dining room ...

SKIMMING AND SCANNING

Skimming and scanning are important reading techniques which are very useful in IELTS. As time is limited in the exam, skimming and scanning help you to find the answers you need quickly.

You **skim** a text quickly to understand the **general idea**.

You **scan** a text quickly in order to find **specific information**.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

03 For each activity, decide whether you would use skimming or scanning.

1 looking up a word in the dictionary scanning
2 browsing the internet for the latest news stories
3 choosing a book from a library or bookshop
4 finding a particular news story in a newspaper
5 finding the price of a product in a catalogue
6 looking through a magazine for an interesting article

TIP 03

Try to practise these or similar activities as much as possible. The more you practise, the better you will become at each technique.

04 The home in the photo cost about one billion dollars to build. What do you like or dislike about the design?

TIP 05

You are only reading for the **main ideas** at this stage, so remember to ignore unknown words.

05 Skim the text to understand the main ideas.

A Mukesh Ambani is one of the richest men in the world, and the first man to own a private residence costing more than one billion dollars to build. The home is on Altamout Road in Mumbai, one of the most expensive addresses in the world. Named after the mythical island Antilia, the property has 27 floors.

B The interior of the home is very glamorous and each floor is made from different materials to give an individual look. Marble floors, rare wood and fine rugs are just some of the design features used to create this extravagant home. The lotus flower and the sun are common symbols used throughout. Many of the rooms have floor-to-ceiling glass windows, offering spectacular views of Mumbai and the Arabian Sea.

C The skyscraper has a multi-storey garage with space for 168 cars. Alternatively, there are also three helipads on the roof of the building. The lobby has numerous reception areas and nine lifts. There are also several floors for dining, vast libraries and a health spa, including a gym, several swimming pools and yoga facilities. There is even an 'ice-room' which creates man-made snow, a Hindu prayer room and several floors of gardens.

D The Ambani residence is clearly designed to entertain guests. It has a theatre which seats 50, several guest bedrooms and a grand ballroom filled with chandeliers.

E The living quarters are on the top floors, because the family wanted as much sunlight as possible. The 400,000 ft² residence requires 600 staff, but all three Ambani children are required to clean their own rooms when they are at home.

F Several experts have criticised the architecture of this very expensive home, comparing it to an 'unstable pile of books'. Mrs Ambani, however, describes her home as 'an elevated house on top of a garden' and 'a modern home with an Indian heart'.



*helipad – *a place where a single helicopter can take off and land*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

06 **Answer these questions.**

1 When you were skim reading the text, which of these types of word did you focus on: prepositions, articles, names, verbs, adjectives, numbers?
2 Discuss with a partner what you remember about the text.
3 What overall title would you give the text?
4 Put the information in the order in which it appears in the passage.

a where the family live ☐
b opinions on the house ☐
c the materials used for the interior ☐
d the cost and address of the house ☐
e the facilities in the house ☐
f the owner of the house ☐
g information about the theatre and ballroom ☐

07 **Now scan the text for the information to answer these questions.**

1 Who owns the property?
2 How many floors does it have?
3 What are the floors made out of?
4 What are the common symbols used throughout the house?
5 How many cars does the garage have space for?
6 How many people are required to work in the home?

TIP 07

In many of the IELTS reading tasks, the answers appear in the same order as the text.

PARAPHRASING

08 **These statements paraphrase each of the paragraphs in the text. Match each statement, 1–6, with the correct paragraph, A–F.**

1 The house has many desirable facilities and outside spaces. Guests can either drive or fly to the home. ☐☐
2 The family live on the top floor because they want exposure to sunlight. ☐☐
3 Mrs Ambani and the architecture experts have different opinions about the house. ☐☐
4 Antilia is situated in Mumbai and owned by Mukesh Ambani. ☐☐
5 The appearance inside the house is very extravagant and expensive materials have been used. The house also has magnificent views of the city. ☐☐
6 The home is fully equipped to make visitors feel welcome. ☐☐

'Paraphrasing' is another important technique to understand and use in the exam. Paraphrasing is when you repeat something using different words, often in a simpler and shorter form that makes the original meaning clearer.

09 **The key to paraphrasing is understanding synonyms and words or phrases with a similar meaning. Match these words and expressions.**

1 desirable facilities	a guests
2 outside spaces	b Mumbai
3 inside	c expensive
4 extravagant	d rare wood and fine rugs
5 city	e health spa and libraries
6 visitors	f gardens
7 equipped to make visitors feel welcome	g interior
8 expensive materials	h designed to entertain guests

LIVEWORKSHEETS

SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS

Questions which require an answer of just a few words, like those in exercise 7, are a common feature of the exam. These are known as *short-answer* questions and they ask about factual details.

TIP 10 11

The answers for short-answer questions come in the same order as they appear in the text.

10 **Choose NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER from the passage for each answer.**

1 How many lifts does the home have?
2 What can you find in the ice-room?
3 What do the Ambani children have to do when at home?

TIP 10 11

Remember to check that your sentences are **grammatically correct** when you have chosen an answer.

COMPLETING SENTENCES

11 **Complete the sentences. Choose NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER from the passage for each answer.**

1 The name Antilia comes from a _____ .
2 There are many facilities to accommodate a large number of _____ .
3 Opinions on the _____ of the house vary.

A similar type of task, which also requires an answer of only a few words, is the 'sentence completion task'. The sentences paraphrase words and ideas from the text.

GRAMMAR FOCUS: PRESENT SIMPLE/PRESENT CONTINUOUS

12 **A 'mindmap' is a type of diagram with lines and circles for organising information so that it is easier to remember. Put these words and phrases with the appropriate tense in the mindmap.**

~~temporary~~ repeated actions general facts opinions
an action which is not complete happening at the time of speaking



13 **Using the rules in the mindmap, correct these sentences where necessary.**

1 Mukesh Ambani is living in Mumbai.
2 Mrs Ambani is believing that her home has an Indian heart.
3 The family live on the top floor because they want as much exposure to sunlight as possible.
4 When the children are at home, they are cleaning their own rooms.
5 Mrs Ambani entertains her guests in the ballroom at the moment.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

14 **Complete the sentences using the word in brackets and the correct form of the present continuous or the present simple.**

1 Currently, my mum _____ **(work)** in the study.
2 I _____ **(rent)** in the city centre for now.
3 I _____ **(think)** that buying a new house now would be a very good idea.
4 What is that going to be? They _____ **(build)** a new accommodation block for students.
5 Every day his mum _____ **(clean)** the house.

EXAM SKILLS

15 **Using the approach below, read the text and answer the questions which follow.**

Locating the answer: one approach

- Read the questions first, so they are in your mind when you read the text.
- Make sure you have understood the question correctly – underlining key words could help.
- Skim read the text for the main ideas. This will help you to have a rough idea of where to locate your answers on a second read-through.

TIP 15

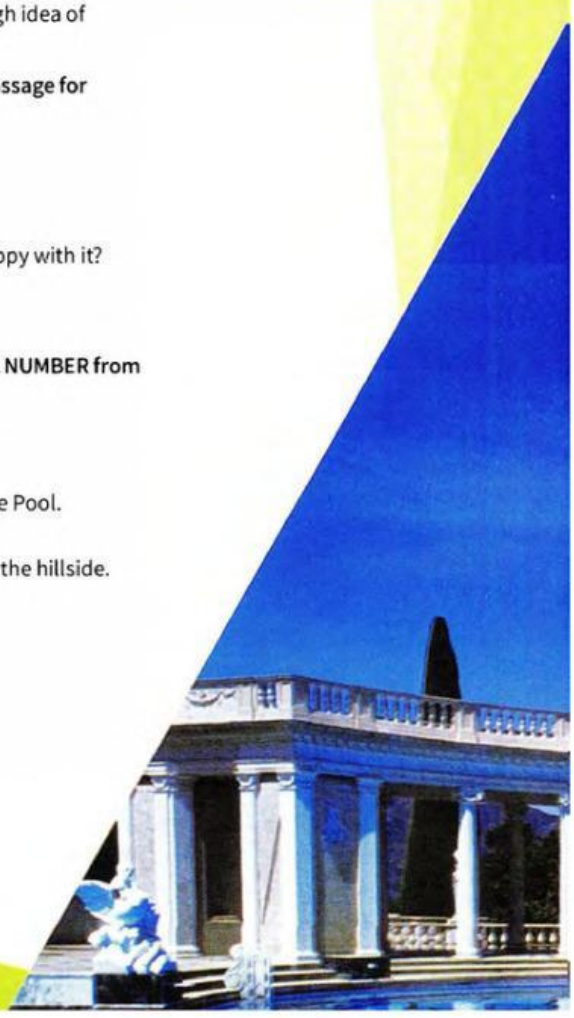
Time yourself: try to do this task as quickly as possible to practise locating information quickly for the exam.

Choose NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER from the passage for each answer.

1 What job did William Hearst do?
2 Who helped Hearst design the Castle?
3 How much did Hearst spend on art during his lifetime?
4 How many times was the Neptune pool rebuilt before Hearst was happy with it?
5 What were visitors to the Castle required to do every evening?
6 Who owns the mansion now?

Complete the sentences. Write NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER from the passage for each answer.

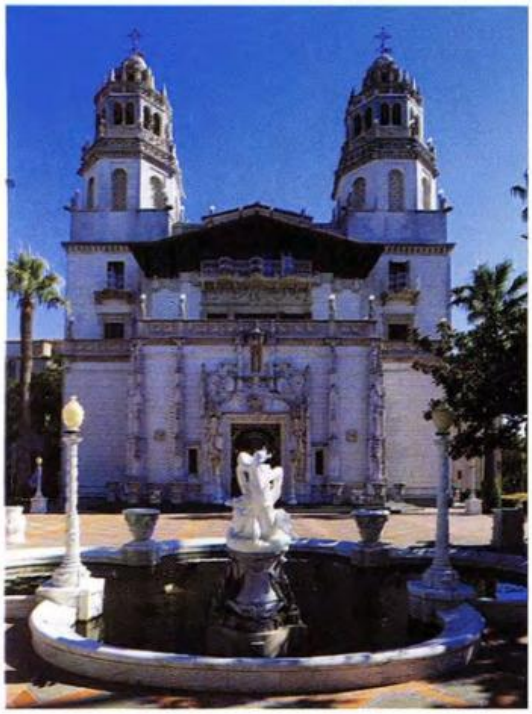
7 As a child, Hearst enjoyed his holidays to _____.
8 Hearst inherited the land from his _____.
9 Builders spent _____ creating the magnificent Neptune Pool.
10 Hearst took animals from _____ for his private zoo.
11 Although the zoo is now closed, _____ still walk about the hillside.
12 The family donated the property because of _____.



LIVEWORKSHEETS

HEARST CASTLE

HOME | ABOUT | PHOTOS | BOOKING



A William Randolph Hearst was a successful American newspaper publisher who received over 1,000 km² of land when his mother died in 1919. Initially, he had planned to build just a small bungalow, so he hired Julia Morgan, the first female architect in California. Together, however, they designed a magnificent castle which cost 10 million dollars and took 28 years to build. The property, named *La Cuesta Encantada* (The Enchanted Mountain), has 56 bedrooms, 61 bathrooms, 19 sitting rooms and about 52,000 m² of garden.

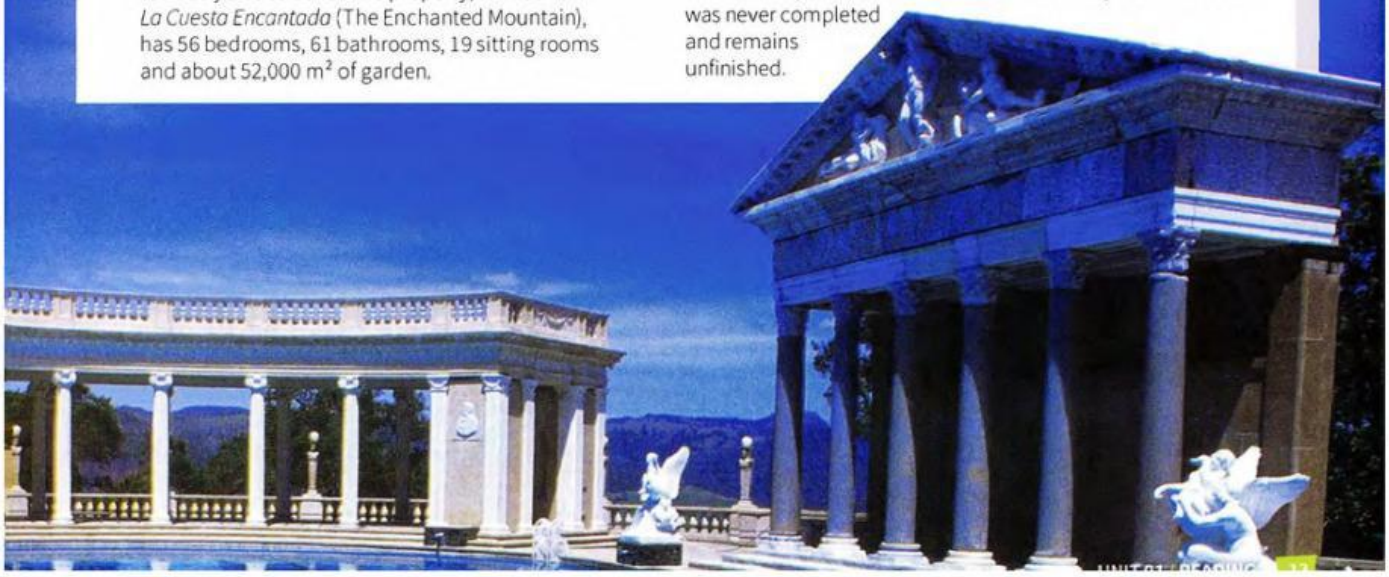
B Hearst loved travelling to Europe when he was a child and we can see this in the overall design of the house. He even included cathedral ceilings and Roman columns in his home. Hearst was also a keen art collector and, during his lifetime, spent $3.5 million on his collection, which is displayed in the rooms at Hearst Castle. Today, his collection is worth much more, with one piece alone valued at $10 million.

C One of the highlights of the estate is the Neptune Pool. It took 15 years to build and includes the front of an ancient Roman temple. It is on top of a hill and has wonderful views of the mountains, ocean and main house. The pool was rebuilt three times until he was satisfied.

D Although the inside of the house is very European, the outside is very Californian, with palm trees and water. Hearst loved trees and 70,000 were planted on the property during his lifetime. The castle was also home to the world's largest private zoo, holding animals from every continent. Although the zoo is now closed, zebras can still be seen on the hillside.

E As well as the *Casa Gronde* (the main house), there are also three guest houses on the property: *Casa Del Monte*, *Casa Del Sol* and *Casa Del Mar*. Hearst entertained a great number of Hollywood stars and political leaders at the castle and many used his private airfield. Guests had to attend formal dinners every evening, but were free to do what they liked during the day. They were invited to stay as long as they wanted, but the longer they stayed, the further away they sat from Hearst at the dinner table.

F When Hearst died in 1951, his family learnt how expensive maintenance would be, and the mansion was donated to the State of California. Since then, it has been open for public tours and the site attracts millions of tourists every year. However, the Hearst family is still allowed to use it when they wish. The castle was never completed and remains unfinished.



LIVEWORKSHEETS

LISTENING PRACTICE

Listening Section 3

❶ **Look at all of the tasks. What are the speakers talking about? Circle A, B or C.**

A a dissertation the student is planning

B a dissertation the student is writing

C a dissertation the student has completed

❷ 04 **Now listen and answer Questions 1–10.**



Questions 1–4

*Choose **TWO** letters, **A–E**.*

Questions 1–2

*Which **TWO** areas of work did Beth include in her dissertation?*

A retail

B banking

C call centres

D tourism

E translation

Questions 3–4

*Which **TWO** aspects of the dissertation were impressive, according to the tutor?*

A summary of academic research

B analysis of videos

C observation of live interactions

D interviews

E analysis of data on the outcomes

Questions 5–8

Which comments do the speakers make about each section of the dissertation?

*Choose **FOUR** answers from the box and write the correct letter, **A–F**, next to Questions **5–8**.*

Sections of Dissertation

5 Dealing with Complaints .....

6 Collaborating with Colleagues .....

7 Interacting with Managers .....

8 Giving Instructions .....

A There is not enough evidence.
B The conclusion is confusing.
C It highlights a real problem.
D It is particularly well organised.
E There are too many examples.
F It includes new ideas.

Questions 9–10

Answer the question below.

*Write **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** for each answer.*

*Which **TWO** aspects of communication does Beth emphasise in her conclusion?*

9 ..... 10 .....

LIVEWORKSHEETS

LISTENING & GRAMMAR PRACTICE

be going to | will | won't

Future forms

Be going to: *Be going to* is used to talk about:

1 *A decided plan or intention*

I am going to ask you some questions.	The headmaster is going to retire at the end of term.

2 *A prediction based on evidence*

The shortage of maths teachers is going to get worse.	My grades have gone down this year. I think I'm going to fail.

Will: *Will* is used to talk about:

1 *Facts about the future*

We will cover this topic in more detail later in the book.	The university will admit five hundred more students next year.

2 *Decisions about the future that we make at the moment of speaking*

I'll try my best to answer all the questions.	'I need to go to the library later.' – 'Good idea. I'll come with you.'

3 *Predictions that are indefinite*

Online learning will become more popular in the future.	All large libraries will want a copy of this book.

4 *Promises and offers*

I'll deal with your question in just a moment.

Note: Shall is usually used in place of *will* in the question form if the subject is *I* or *we*.

Shall we start again from the beginning?

Won't: *Won't* is the negative of *will* and it is used to talk about:

Refusal

The teachers say they won't attend meetings out of school hours.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Practice exercises

1 **Decide on a correct grammatical form (*will* or *be going to*) and complete sentences 1–5. Decide which rule matches the meaning of each sentence.**

1 'I've made a revision timetable for the next month. I _____ study hard for this exam!' *Form:* _____ *Rule number:* _____

2 'In the future, I think more people _____ study courses online.' *Form:* _____ *Rule number:* _____

3 'Alejandro has failed many of his exams, so I don't think he _____ be able to go to university this year.' *Form:* _____ *Rule number:* _____

4 'No, I _____ let you borrow my calculator. I need it for the next exercise.' *Form:* _____ *Rule number:* _____

5 The next academic year _____ start in September. *Form:* _____ *Rule number:* _____

Grammar tip: *Be going to* and *will* are based on perspectives when used for predictions and can often be interchangeable. Sometimes, a person uses *will* when they are not so sure. A person uses *be going to* when they are surer. However, as perspectives are subjective, there is not usually one correct answer.

I'll go to one of the best universities in the country. (This prediction is probably based on what the speaker wants and hopes.)

I'm going to go to one of the best universities in the country. (This prediction is more likely to be based on the student's knowledge of their own academic achievement, for example, if they always get the top grades in their class.)

2 **Read answers A–C to this Speaking Part 3 exercise and match them to questions 1–3.**

1 How do you think education will change in the future?

2 What are the main arguments about education in your country at the moment?

3 Do you think education will be accessible to all in future?

A. Well, the government **is going to** introduce compulsory tuition fees next academic year, and this has caused a lot of anger. Students have been protesting about the unfairness of these fees. They think that poorer students **won't** be able to afford the fees. The government **won't** back down though.

B. In one way, yes. I think more people **will** be able to access basic education around the world, like primary and secondary schools, and also courses online in practical subjects. But I think university education **will** become more exclusive. I read an article recently about how the Internet **is going to** make education available for the world, but I think that **will** mean that good university degrees **will** be more important.

C. I think a lot of people **will** study online. The Internet **is going to** be easily accessible in all countries soon, and online courses are cheaper and more convenient than having to travel to a college or campus. I also think more and more people **will** be able to study.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Look again at the questions in Exercise 2 and think about how you would answer them using *will* and *be going to*.

Listening exam tip: In the Listening exam, people sometimes give opposite ideas to distract you from the correct answer. For example:

John: I'm going to be at home later, so I can do some research on the Internet.
Bill: No, I'll do it. There are computers I can use at the library. (Instant decision)

Here we can see that Bill offers to do the Internet research, although John first mentions it.

3 **Look at sentences 1–3 and write responses that give opposite ideas. Use the verbs in brackets.**

1 **Alex:** I'll pick you up from school later if you would like.
Paula: No, that's okay. I _____ (*walk*) home as I want to get some sweets from the shop. (Plan)

2 **Philip:** I'm going to see Jane tonight, so I can tell her about the homework.
Fiona: Don't worry, I _____ (*call*) her as I want to speak to her anyway. (Instant decision)

3 **Mike:** I'm going to walk over to the library tonight and take my book back.
Penny: _____ (*do*) it? It's easy for me to drive down. (Offer)
Mike: Thanks!

4 **Look at the audio script below and correct any mistakes in the future forms. There are five mistakes.**

Librarian: Hello there. How can I help you?
John: I will do a presentation on Mary Shelley, and I'd like to get some books on her.
Librarian: Okay. The biographies are on the third floor. I'll to write the aisle number down for you.
John: Thanks. I might use the Internet too and look for resources on there.
Librarian: That's a good idea. If you're going use the Internet, have a look on the Great British Authors website.
John: Thanks, I'm going to. I haven't heard of that site before. Thanks very much for the information.
Librarian: That's quite all right. Feel free to come and ask me any questions, and I won't do my best to help.

05 **Listen to Track 05 on the CD and check your answers.**

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Listening exam tip: Modified multiple-choice questions ask you to choose items from a list of options. Sometimes you have more options than needed (see Q1–3 below), and sometimes you must reuse options (see Q4–8 below).



Listen to the discussion between a new student and someone in the Student Affairs Office and answer questions **1–8** below.

Who does what?
Write a correct letter, **A**, **B**, **C**, **D**, or **E**, next to questions **1–3**.

1 Andy _____

2 Carol _____

3 Administration Office _____

A completes the New Student Form.

B books the library induction.

C stamps the paperwork.

D finds the campus map.

E pays the student fees.

Where should Andy go for the following things?
Write a correct letter, **A**, **B**, or **C**, next to questions **4–8**.

4 Flat rentals _____

5 Tenancy agreement information _____

6 Doctor registration _____

7 Local area information _____

8 Course fee payment _____

A Student Support Service

B Administrative Department

C Student Affairs Office

LIVEWORKSHEETS