

IELTS Reading Part 1 Practice: The Growth of Online Learning

B1 CEFR | Vietnamese EFL University Students | Liveworksheets-ready

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Learning Goals

1. find the main idea of a reading passage
2. scan for names, numbers, dates, and facts
3. identify synonyms and paraphrases in IELTS Reading questions

Pre-reading Vocabulary - Match the words with their meanings

Column A: Words / Phrases

1. platform
2. recorded lecture
3. flexible
4. convenience
5. deadline
6. discussion board
7. motivated
8. blended learning

Column B: Meanings

- A. a final time or date for finishing work
- B. wanting to do something and continue doing it
- C. a lesson video that students can watch later
- D. easy and useful for someone
- E. a website or system used for learning
- F. combines classroom and online study
- G. able to change or adjust easily
- H. an online space for ideas or questions

Reading Strategy Box

Skimming: Read quickly to understand the main idea. Do not stop at every new word.

Scanning: Look for names, numbers, dates, and keywords.

Paraphrasing: IELTS questions often use different words with the same meaning.

Reading Passage: The Growth of Online Learning at University

- A.** In the past, many university students thought online learning was only a temporary solution for special situations. Today, it has become a normal part of student life. At Green River University, an online learning platform was introduced in 2018. At first, teachers used it mainly to upload documents and homework instructions. However, students now use the platform for recorded lectures, quizzes, group projects, and feedback. The change has not replaced face-to-face classes, but it has made learning more flexible and has given students more control over how they study.
- B.** A student survey in 2023 showed how quickly online learning had grown. The university asked 600 first-year students about their study habits. About 68 percent said they used the online platform at least three times a week. In 2018, only 22 percent of students did this. The most common reason was convenience. Many students said they could review lessons after class, especially before tests. Others liked checking deadlines and downloading materials without having to ask the teacher again. Several students also said that online tasks helped them remember important points from the lesson.
- C.** Online learning also supports students who need more time to understand a lesson. In a classroom, some students are afraid to ask questions because they do not want to make mistakes in front of others. With recorded lectures, they can pause the video, listen again, and take notes at their own speed. This is especially useful for students learning in English, as they may need extra time to understand new vocabulary. Teachers at Green River also noticed that quiet students sometimes wrote more questions in online discussion boards than they did in class.

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Reading passage continued and comprehension questions

Reading Passage - Continued

- D. However, online learning is not perfect. The survey found that 41 percent of students sometimes had problems with internet connection or slow devices. Some students also said they felt less motivated when studying alone at home. Without a clear plan, they spent too much time watching videos but did not complete the exercises. For this reason, teachers suggested that students should use a weekly study schedule and set small goals. They also advised students to take short breaks instead of studying online for many hours without stopping. These simple habits can help students stay focused and avoid feeling tired.
- E. Most teachers at Green River University now believe that the best choice is blended learning. This means students learn through both classroom lessons and online activities. In class, they can practise speaking, ask questions directly, and work with classmates. Online, they can review difficult parts and prepare before the next lesson. The university plans to improve the platform by adding shorter videos and more automatic feedback. Overall, online learning works best when it is used as a support tool, not as a complete replacement for classroom learning.

Exercise 1: Multiple Choice

Choose the correct answer: A, B, C, or D.

1. What is the main purpose of the passage?
A. To explain why universities should stop using classrooms
B. To describe how online learning is used at one university
C. To compare online learning in different countries
D. To advertise a new online learning platform
2. When was the online learning platform introduced at Green River University?
A. 2018
B. 2020
C. 2023
D. 2024
3. According to Paragraph B, what was the most common reason students used the platform?
A. It was cheaper
B. It was convenient
C. It was compulsory
D. It was more difficult
4. Why can recorded lectures help some students?
A. Students can watch them at their own speed
B. Students do not need to attend university
C. Students can avoid all homework
D. Students can finish tests more quickly
5. What do most teachers at Green River University now prefer?
A. Only online learning
B. Only classroom learning
C. Blended learning
D. No recorded lectures

Exercise 2: True / False / Not Given

Write TRUE if the statement agrees with the passage, FALSE if it contradicts it, or NOT GIVEN if it is not stated.

1. Online learning has become a normal part of student life.
2. In 2018, more than half of students used the platform at least three times a week.
3. Recorded lectures can help students study at their own speed.
4. All students at Green River University prefer online learning to classroom learning.
5. The university plans to add shorter videos to the platform.
6. Teachers at Green River University receive special training every month.

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Answer fields for Liveworksheets interaction

Exercise 3: Short Answer Questions

Answer the questions below. Choose **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER** from the passage.

1. What was introduced at Green River University in 2018? _____
2. How many first-year students answered the survey? _____
3. What percentage of students had problems with internet connection or slow devices? _____
4. What kind of schedule did teachers suggest students should use? _____
5. What type of feedback will the university add to the platform? _____

Exercise 4: Sentence Completion

Complete the sentences below. Choose **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** from the passage for each answer.

1. At first, teachers used the platform to upload documents and homework _____.
2. Many students could review lessons after class, especially before _____.
3. Quiet students sometimes wrote more questions in online _____.
4. Some students felt less motivated when studying _____.
5. Online learning works best as a _____ tool.

Exercise 5: Matching Headings

Match each paragraph with the correct heading.

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| Paragraph A: _____ | i. Problems and advice for online study |
| Paragraph B: _____ | ii. How online learning supports slower learners |
| Paragraph C: _____ | iii. The future of sports at university |
| Paragraph D: _____ | iv. The beginning and development of online learning |
| Paragraph E: _____ | v. Why students use the online platform |
| | vi. The benefits of studying abroad |
| | vii. Combining online and classroom learning |

Exercise 6: Synonym and Paraphrase Practice

Match the words or phrases from IELTS questions with words or phrases from the passage.

Column A: Question Phrases

1. became more common
2. easy to use
3. study again
4. students who do not speak much
5. problems with technology
6. not a full replacement

Column B: Passage Phrases

- A. quiet students
- B. internet connection or slow devices
- C. convenience
- D. had grown
- E. review
- F. support tool

Final Reflection

1. Which exercise was the easiest for you? _____
2. Which question type was the most difficult? _____
3. What reading strategy helped you today? _____