

The TOEFL Reading Section:
Directions

In the reading section, you will answer 35-48 questions to demonstrate how well you understand academic and non-academic texts in English. There are three types of tasks.

Type of Task	Description
Complete the Words	Fill in the missing letters in a paragraph.
Read in Daily Life	Answer questions about everyday reading material.
Read an Academic Passage	Answer questions about academic passages.



Module 1

Fill in the missing letters in the paragraph.

Every living thing is made of tiny units called cells. Ea__ cell h__ a th__ outer la__ that ke__ its con__ together a__ lets cer__ materials pa__ through. In ____, a soft fluid supports smaller parts that handle jobs like making energy and repairing damage. When many cells of the same kind work together, they form tissues such as muscle or skin. Learning how cells function helps scientists understand growth, health, and disease.

Fill in the missing letters in the paragraph.

Bridges allow people and vehicles to cross rivers, valleys, or busy roads safely. To st__ strong, th__ must sp__ the we__ they ca__ across th__ supports. Bui__ often ch__ materials su__ as st__ or concrete because these can stretch slightly under pressure instead of breaking. Over time, weather and traffic slowly wear a bridge down, so inspections and repairs are essential. Without proper care, even the best design can fail when weight or age takes its toll.



Read an email.

Subject:	Tour Confirmation
Dear Mr. Lee, Your group tour of the City History Museum is confirmed for March 5 at 10:30 a.m. Please arrive by 10:15 for check-in. Note that photography is not allowed during guided tours. We appreciate your cooperation. Best regards, Priya Singh	

21. What should Mr. Lee do before the tour begins?

- a. Join a different group tour
- b. Take photos of the exhibits
- c. Buy tickets at the entrance
- d. Arrive 15 minutes early

22. What can be inferred about the museum?

- a. It requires all visitors to wear name tags.
- b. It limits visitors' use of cameras.
- c. It allows private tours at any time.
- d. It accepts payments in cash or credit.



Read a text chain.

	Olga Antonov (9:00 A.M.) Morning team. The shipment of EcoBlend mugs was delayed due to the storm. We need to update our customers right away. Luis Fernandez (9:03 A.M.) I'll email all wholesale clients explaining the new delivery date. Do we know when the shipment will arrive? Olga Antonov (9:05 A.M.) The supplier expects delivery on Thursday instead of Tuesday. Yasmin Hasan (9:08 A.M.) Should I also post an announcement on our website and social media pages? Olga Antonov (9:10 A.M.) Yes, please do. Keep the message positive—mention the weather issue but emphasize that orders will ship later this week. Ahmed Khan (9:12 A.M.) Got it. I'll adjust the inventory page so customers can't place new mug orders until Thursday. Olga Antonov (9:14 A.M.) Thanks, everyone. Let's avoid the kind of confusion we had during last month's delay.	

23. What is Olga's main concern in these messages?

- a. Losing contact with the supplier
- b. Preventing customer confusion about late orders
- c. Designing a new product that suppliers can deliver on time
- d. Finding ways to email clients about social media pages

24. According to the messages, when will the shipment now arrive?

- a. Monday
- b. Tuesday
- c. Thursday
- d. Friday



25. Which of the following actions is NOT mentioned in the messages?

- a. Contacting wholesale clients by email
- b. Posting an update on social media
- c. Adjusting the inventory page
- d. Calling the supplier by phone



Read an email.

Subject:	Community Garden Plot Registration
Dear Valued Member, I hope you're doing well. I wanted to let you know that registration for the Riverside Community Garden opens next Monday. As a returning participant, you'll have early access to reserve your same plot before general registration begins on Wednesday. This year, the garden committee is introducing a shared tool shed and composting area to make upkeep easier for everyone. There will also be a short orientation for new gardeners on Saturday morning, followed by a seed-exchange table where members can trade vegetables or flower seeds. If you'd like to renew your plot, please confirm by replying to this email by Friday evening. Space is limited, and unconfirmed plots will be offered to people on the waiting list. Best regards, Yuki Odani Riverside Garden Coordinator	

26. According to the email, what new feature will be available in the community garden this year?

- a. A shared tool shed for members
- b. A new registration area
- c. Orientation meetings and weekly markets
- d. A larger parking area for visitors

27. The new garden features do NOT include

- a. A composting area
- b. A shared tool shed
- c. A weekly seed-exchange event
- d. Orientation for new members

28. What can be inferred about the members?

- a. They participated in the garden last year.
- b. They have already paid the registration fee.
- c. They are responsible for organizing the orientation.
- d. They are members of the garden committee.



The Chemistry of Volcanoes

Volcanoes are often viewed simply as sources of lava and ash, but they are also powerful chemical systems that shape Earth's atmosphere. When magma rises toward the surface, dissolved gases like water vapor, carbon dioxide, and sulfur dioxide escape, driving explosive eruptions. The balance among these gases largely determines how violent an eruption becomes.

Sulfur dioxide is of particular interest to scientists because it reacts with water vapor to form aerosols—tiny droplets that can reflect sunlight. After a major eruption, these aerosols may **linger** in the stratosphere for months or even years, slightly cooling Earth's surface. For example, the 1991 eruption of Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines lowered global temperatures by about half a degree Celsius for more than a year.

Not all eruptions have the same impact. Small but frequent events release gases gradually, whereas massive eruptions can inject enormous quantities into the upper atmosphere almost instantly. The height at which gases are released determines whether their influence remains local or becomes global.

Volcanic gases also interact with life at ground level. While sulfur dioxide can harm lungs and vegetation, volcanic soils enriched with minerals eventually foster fertile landscapes. This dual effect—destructive and regenerative—illustrates how volcanoes contribute both hazards and long-term ecological benefits.

29. The word “linger” in the passage is closest in meaning to

- a. remain
- b. disappear
- c. expand
- d. scatter

30. According to the passage, what determines the strength of a volcanic eruption?

- a. The temperature of the surrounding air
- b. The balance of gases within the magma
- c. The mineral content of volcanic soil
- d. The age of the volcano

31. Why does the author mention the 1991 eruption of Mount Pinatubo?

- a. To describe how aerosols form in the lower atmosphere
- b. To show that eruptions produce identical cooling effects
- c. To argue that volcanic eruptions are becoming more frequent
- d. To provide an example of an eruption that affected global climate



32. What can be inferred about volcanic gases released at higher altitudes?

- a. They remain near the volcano's crater.
- b. They can influence climate over a wider area.
- c. They lose their cooling effect more quickly.
- d. They cause more damage to vegetation.

33. There are four locations in the passage marked (A, B, C, and D). Where would the following sentence best fit?

The reaction these mixtures release into the atmosphere could have far-reaching effects.

(A) Sulfur dioxide is of particular interest to scientists because it reacts with water vapor to form aerosols—tiny droplets that can reflect sunlight. (B) After a major eruption, these aerosols may linger in the stratosphere for months or even years, slightly cooling Earth's surface. (C) For example, the 1991 eruption of Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines lowered global temperatures by about half a degree Celsius for more than a year. (D)



Module 2

Fill in the missing letters in the paragraph.

The invention of the printing press changed how information spread across Europe. Be _____ this machine _____, books were _____ copied by hand _____, which took _____ months. With _____ movable metal _____ letters, printers _____ could make _____ many copies _____ quickly and at lower cost. As more people learned to read, ideas about science and government reached wider audiences. This new access to knowledge encouraged discussion and discovery, marking one of the most important turning points in human progress.



The Origins of Cooking

Archaeological discoveries suggest that early humans began using fire for cooking hundreds of thousands of years ago. Charred bones and plant remains found near ancient hearths reveal that cooking was not just accidental but **deliberate**. Transforming raw food with heat altered its texture and flavor, making it easier to chew and digest. These changes had far-reaching effects, both biological and social.

Cooking made more calories available from the same ingredients, which may have helped fuel the growth of the human brain. Meals prepared around a shared fire also encouraged cooperation and communication. Anthropologists argue that these gatherings became centers for storytelling and teaching, giving rise to more complex social relationships. In this sense, cooking may have been as much about community as nutrition.

Today, the practice still connects people. Whether in family kitchens or public festivals, cooking expresses culture and identity. The origins of this activity remind us that a basic human need evolved into a defining social ritual, one that continues to shape how societies organize daily life and celebrate shared experiences.

44. What can be inferred about the social importance of cooking?

- a. It led to the decline of group interaction around fires
- b. It replaced hunting as the main form of cooperation
- c. It discouraged the sharing of resources
- d. It encouraged the development of spoken language

45. The word “deliberate” in the passage is closest in meaning to

- a. surprising
- b. rare
- c. intentional
- d. cautious

46. According to the passage, what benefit did cooking provide for early humans?

- a. It reduced the need for hunting large animals
- b. It increased the amount of energy gained from food
- c. It allowed humans to be more biologically efficient
- d. It protected food from contamination through ash and smoke



47. What is the relationship between paragraphs 2 and 3?

- a. Paragraph 3 connects the historical role of cooking to its modern cultural meaning
- b. Paragraph 3 introduces new archaeological evidence supporting earlier claims
- c. Paragraph 3 challenges the scientific explanation of brain growth
- d. Paragraph 3 provides a counterexample to the social theory in paragraph 2

48. All of the following are mentioned in the passage as results of cooking EXCEPT

- a. The strengthening of community bonds
- b. The emergence of teaching and storytelling
- c. The decline of cooperation among groups
- d. The expansion of human caloric intake

