Reading 2

Reading: Matching information

Skills focus

One of the key skills you need for IELTS Reading is to skim paragraphs quickly and match information. You can do this by:

- highlighting the key words in each statement
- skimming each paragraph quickly and trying to match the words in the statement with similar information in the text
- underlining where you have matched the information in the text.

1 Read the title and introduction to the article on page 19. What do you think the four people will say about living in the country?

2 Read the whole article quickly and check your ideas.

3 Look at the underlined text in the first question in the exam task in Exercise 4, then look at the underlined text in Arthur's section of the article. How are the two bits of text related?

4 The article relates the experiences of four different people. Answer these questions, choosing from Rose, Arthur, James or Maria. Before you start, underline the key words in each question, then underline the answer in the text when you find it.

Which person

1 spent their childhood in the countryside, but doesn't live there any more?
2 says that it is easier to have good job prospects in a big city?
3 feels happier now that they are living in the countryside?
4 found living in a city stressful and bad for their health?
5 works in a city, but lives in the countryside?
6 says there is no entertainment in the countryside?
7 enjoys the fact that you can meet foreign people in a big city?
8 says that they get bored easily if they spend time in the countryside?
9 enjoys the air quality in the countryside?
10 says living in the countryside is great for family life?
11 didn't enjoy the long journey to work every day?
12 says that it's more expensive to live in a big city, but it's worth it?


Rose


Arthur


James


Maria

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5 Find words or phrases in the article with a similar meaning.

Rose

1 There were too many people on the Tube. The trains were overcrowded.
2 a long daily journey to work and back
3 a house
4 The air is clean.
5 making the most of the fact that there is not much noise

Arthur

6 things to do in the evening for fun
7 when people talk about other people's lives
8 It's more expensive.
9 with people from all over the world

James

10 work possibilities
11 I've got lots of jobs and my CV is great.
12 places to look at paintings and art
13 the fact that life is quick

Maria

14 forget about city life
15 raise kids
16 connected to the people in the village
17 not always having friendly people around

6 Complete the questions with words and phrases from Exercise 5. Then discuss the questions in pairs.

1 Do you enjoy the fast p____ of l____ in big cities?
2 Would you be prepared to do a long c____ to work every day?
Or would you prefer to live near to your work?
3 Do you enjoy going to m____ and g____ ? When did you last visit one and look at art?
4 Do you think it's true that people in big cities can feel alone and i____ ?
5 Do you think it's true that people in small villages like to exchange g____ about other people's lives?
6 What's the n____ like where you live? What do people normally do in the evenings?
7 How important is it to you to live in a place with f____ air? Is the air quality good where you live?
8 Would you rather b____ u____ children in a city or in the countryside?
Where were you brought up?
9 Would you move to a big city because of the better job o____ ?
10 Is the c____ of l____ in the capital city much higher than in the rest of your country?
Is it difficult to have a good quality of life in the capital?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Living in the countryside: heaven or hell?

Fed up with living in a big city, with all the stresses and strains of urban life? Four people give their take on what it's like to live in rural Britain.



'I moved out to the countryside about a year ago, and I haven't looked back. I'd been living in London for about ten years, and although it was great to be in the centre of things, I found it increasingly difficult to live there. It was always so busy, noisy and full of people, and it made me really stressed to have to deal with the constant noise and speed of the city. Every morning, I used to get the Tube into work, and the carriage was always completely packed with people, with nowhere to sit down. The trains were overcrowded, hot and uncomfortable, and I found myself hating the journey to work. It also took me at least an hour and a half to get to work every day, and the commute was really tiring. I also found the air pollution hard to deal with; I kept getting colds and feeling sick, and in the end it really got me down. So I decided that I would look into relocating to the countryside, and after thinking it over for several months, I changed my job so that I could work at home, and I bought a property about an hour from London, in a small village. I love it! There's fresh air, it's quiet and there's hardly any traffic. I just love summer evenings, sitting outside the local pub, having a drink and enjoying the peace and quiet.'

Rose

'I was born in New York City, and I can't imagine living anywhere else. For one thing, I love the fact that there are so many job opportunities in New York. I'm a journalist, and if you want to be a writer in the US, New York is the place to be. There is a lot of competition for work, but if you're good, there are so many different organisations you can write for. I've been able to build a really good career so far, and I'd never be able to do that in a small town. I also love the museums and galleries – sometimes if I have time I visit one of the galleries on the way home and just spend an hour looking at great art. When I leave the gallery, I feel inspired and I forget about any stress or trouble I have in everyday life. Another thing I really like is the fast pace of life – everything is quick, but I love it, it makes life interesting. Sometimes I go for a long weekend to the New Hampshire countryside, and it's beautiful, especially in the fall, but after about three days I run out of things to do, and I need to come back to New York.'



James

'I was brought up in a small village, and I know it's really beautiful, but it was also really boring. In the village where I lived, there's one shop, one pub and nothing else. If you want good nightlife, or even to watch a film at the cinema or go somewhere new, it's not the place to be. On top of that, it's so small that everyone knows each others' business, the whole village is full of gossip, and you can't really be yourself. As soon as I turned 18 and passed my exams at school, I moved to London. I've been there for six years now, and I've just started working as a trainee lawyer in a big law firm. It's true that the cost of living is much higher in London, and I have to be careful with money, but I feel alive in London, and I wouldn't change it for the world. The other thing I really like in London is that it's really cosmopolitan. You come across people from all over the world here, and that's really interesting. Even being able to try food from other countries or go to watch foreign films makes me feel like I'm more open-minded, and I'm able to enjoy the cultural life. I'd never go back.'

Arthur

'I think I have the best of both worlds. I live in a small village outside Paris, and it only takes 40 minutes by train to get into the centre of the city. I work in an advertising agency near to the city centre, and I need to be in Paris for work, but I've always lived in the village, and I've never been tempted to move into Paris. I love the fact that at the end of the day, when I get home, I can just switch off from the stress of the city and relax. We have a big garden at the back of the house, and it's a great place to bring up children. My husband and I have three kids, and it's great for them to grow up in the fresh air, with space to play and to explore the countryside. At weekends, we sometimes go out for a walk in the woods near our house, and it's beautiful. The main thing I find is that people in the village are so friendly, probably because they have time. They'll always stop for a chat, and it feels great to be part of a community. I think in Paris people are a bit isolated – even though they are surrounded by people, it's easy to feel alone and that nobody cares, whereas here you can drop into the local bar for a drink and everyone knows your name and says hello.'

Maria

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Writing

16 **Use the information and language from this lesson to answer this Writing Part 1 task. You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.**

The chart below gives information about how people aged 25–34 are housed in the UK.

Summarise the information by selecting and reporting on the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

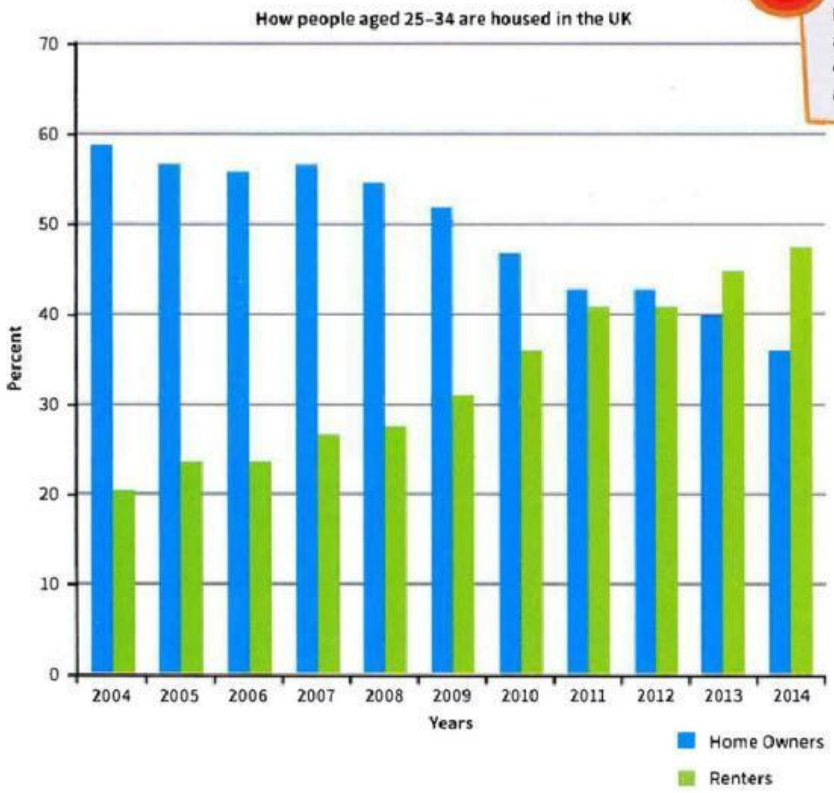
Write at least 150 words.

TIP 16

Do not give your opinion, just the facts.

TIP 16

Remember to include an introduction and conclusion in your answer.



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Vocabulary



Problems and solutions

1.1 Consider whether you can ever have *too much*, *too many*, *too little* or *too few* of the following.

time traffic people money space work rubbish

Audio

1.2 14a Listen to a conversation between two women and decide which two topics they talk about.

1.3 14a Listen again and write down all the verbs that are used with the words *problem* and *issue*.

.....

.....

.....

.....

1.4 Complete the sentences using the verbs you wrote in 1.3. There may be more than one possible answer, so try to use a different verb for each sentence.

1 One of the biggest problems ..... the world today is poverty.
2 Your problems won't go away if you ignore them, you need to ..... them.
3 The problem was ..... by a blocked pipe, which eventually burst.
4 Here is a list of the issues that will be ..... during the meeting.
5 Unfortunately we were unable to ..... the issue, even after two days of talks.
6 The main speaker did not arrive, which ..... an awkward problem for the organisers of the conference.

1.5 Match the nouns in column B with the correct verbs in column A. Which two verbs can be used with the words *problem* and *compromise*?

A	B
find	a compromise
overcome	an issue
solve	a situation
remedy	a difficulty
resolve	a solution
reach	a problem

1.6 Correct the mistakes in these sentences.

1 I am not sure we will ever ~~solve the issue~~ of unemployment.
2 We need to resolve a solution to this situation as soon as possible.
3 What can we do to solve this difficulty?
4 At last scientists have solution the problems associated with solar-powered cars.
5 Finally, the members of the city council were able to solve a compromise and the building work was allowed to start.

1 solve the problem / resolve the issue
2 .....
3 .....
4 .....
5 .....

1.7 Cross out the one word in each list that is NOT a synonym for the word in capitals.

1 PROBLEM difficulty, dilemma, ~~benefit~~, challenge, obstacle
2 SOLUTION answer, key, remedy, resolution, setback
3 WORSEN compound, deteriorate, enhance, exacerbate
4 IMPROVE advance, aggravate, flourish, progress, reform
5 CHANGE acclimatise, adapt, adjust, amend, linger, modify, transform

Vocabulary note

We usually use a hyphen between two words if they are joined together to form an adjective: *user-friendly*. We don't use a hyphen if the first word ends in *-ly*: *environmentally friendly*

1.8 Use a hyphen to combine one of the words in box A with one of the words in box B. Then complete the sentences.

A	double	long	short	one

B	edged	sighted	sided	term

1 We need a ..... plan for our transport systems that will take into account future growth.
2 A warning sign was put at the site of the accident as a ..... measure until a new wall was built.
3 This argument appears to be a little ..... . I'd like to hear the other side as well.
4 The management agreed to employ five more members of staff, which in hindsight was a very ..... decision because within a few weeks we were still understaffed.
5 Globalisation is a ..... sword. It promotes multiculturalism while it erodes the local culture.

LIVEWORKSHEETS