

UNIT 1 : THE MAN-MADE ENVIRONMENT

A. GRAMMAR AND VOCABULARY:

Exercise 1 :

Choose the correct words to complete the sentences. Use the words in the box.

bedsit

bungalow

flat

halls

mobile

semi-detached

- 1 A is a home inside a bigger building, usually on one floor. It's also called an apartment.
- 2 I live in a home. It's got wheels, but it's been in the same place for years.
- 3 There are no stairs in my house. It's a , so it's only got one floor.
- 4 When I was a student, I lived in the of residence for a year, with hundreds of other students.
- 5 Our house is , so it's attached to another house on one side, but not the other side.
- 6 The first place I lived after I left home was a – a rented room. It had a bed, a table and chairs and a place to cook, so it was quite basic.

Exercise 2 :

What item would you not expect to find in each room of a house? Choose the correct answers. The first question has been done for you.

- 1 bedroom: ☐ an en-suite bathroom ☒ a washing machine ☐ a bedside table
- 2 bathroom: ☐ a shower unit ☐ a fridge ☐ a sink
- 3 living room: ☐ a garage ☐ a sofa ☐ a coffee table
- 4 study: ☐ a desk ☐ a lamp ☐ a cellar
- 5 kitchen: ☐ a wardrobe ☐ a fridge ☐ an oven
- 6 dining room: ☐ a patio ☐ a dining table ☐ a rug

Exercise 3 :

Complete the sentences. Use the words in the box.

bright

charming

guest

messy

remote

run-down

spacious

tidy

- 1 My sister's room is very – she always puts everything away in the right place.
- 2 My flat's quite . It has enough room for all my things.
- 3 It's a lovely room. The sun shines through the wide windows all day.
- 4 Our house is very pretty, but it's rather – it's a long way from everywhere else.
- 5 The kitchen is really . There are dirty plates and cups everywhere.
- 6 We've got four bedrooms – one for my parents, one each for my brother and me, plus a room for visitors.
- 7 It was a nice house when it was built, but it's a bit now. It looks in bad condition and a lot of things need to be fixed.
- 8 What a little house! It looks so pretty and full of character!

Exercise 4 :

Choose the correct prepositions to complete the sentences.

- 1 I live myself in a bedsit.
- 2 There isn't enough space all my things.
- 3 My sister shares a flat two flatmates.
- 4 Our flat is the top floor of an apartment block.
- 5 I've got a nice view the park from my balcony.
- 6 My brother is home this afternoon.

Exercise 5: Read the sentences. Select the two words that can go in each gap.

- 1 All my money goes on my flat. There's never any money left after I pay my ... / bills / rent / salary / ... every month.
- 2 When we bought the house, it was really run-down, but it looked a lot better after we ... / decorated / painted / removed / ... it.
- 3 When are you going to ... / clean / tidy / wash / ... your room? It's really messy!
- 4 The central heating has broken again. Can you ... / damage / fix / repair / ... it yourself, or do we need to call a plumber?
- 5 You can't see the house from the road. There's a tall ... / ceiling / fence / wall / ... all the way around the garden.
- 6 Our flat is quite small, but it feels a lot bigger now that we've ... / rearranged / remained / replaced / ... some of the furniture.

Exercise 6: Read the information. Then put the verbs in the correct column.

State and action verbs

State and action verbs are verbs that refer to a state, an action or event.

With state verbs, we usually use the present simple.

Example: I *want* it. NOT I'm *wanting* it.

With action verbs, we can use the present simple or present continuous. We use the present simple for habits and present continuous for things happening now.

Example: I often *drive* to work but I'm not *driving* to work today.

pay

cost

believe

know

own

seem

help

build

work

decorate

tidy

use

need

state verbs

action verbs

Exercise 7 :

Read the information. Then complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs.

Present simple and present continuous

- We use the present simple for activities (action verbs) that happen often (e.g. *I usually **drive** to work.*).
- We use the present simple for state verbs (e.g. *I **want** to go.* NOT *I'm ~~wanting~~ to go.*).
- A few verbs (e.g. *live, work, think, have*) can be actions or states, with a slightly different meaning.
- We use the present continuous for activities (action verbs) that are in progress at the time of speaking (e.g. *I'm **driving** to work at the moment.*).

- 1

I'm living
I live

 my parents, but I'd like to leave home and live by myself in a year or two.
- 2

I'm living
I live

 my parents at the moment, while my own flat's being redecorated.
- 3 I'm afraid the lift

doesn't work
isn't working

 y. You'll need to use the stairs instead.
- 4

I'm not working
I don't work

 at company now. I left that job last year.
- 5

We're thinking
We don't think

 moving to the countryside in a few years' time, but we're not sure.
- 6

I don't think
I'm not thinking

 is the right house. Are you sure it's the correct address?
- 7 It's a very small bathroom, so it

isn't having
doesn't have

 a bath. There's only enough room for a shower.
- 8 No, now's not a good time to call me.

I have
I'm having

 a bath at the moment. Can I call you back in twenty minutes?

Exercise 8: Complete the conversation. Use the words in the box.

A: I remember you were living in a bedsit last time I saw you. Are you living there, or have you found a new place to live?

B: No, I'm not living there more. , I'm sharing a flat with another student. But I'm having a few problems with my flatmate at the . We got on really well at first, but things aren't going so well these . In fact, we're no speaking to each other. So I'm looking for somewhere else to live. Do you know anybody with a spare room?

A: Well, I'm actually looking for a new flatmate now. My sister's staying with me , while she gets a new kitchen installed in her flat, but her room will be empty again next week. What do you think? Would you like to stay with me?

Exercise 9 :

Complete the conversation. Use the words in brackets with the present simple or present continuous. Use contractions (e.g. *isn't*), where possible. The first question has been done for you.

A: Why are you standing on that chair? (*you / stand*)

B: the batteries in this smoke detector. (*I / change*)

A: Why that? (*you / do*) perfectly, isn't it? (*it / still / work*)

B: Yes, but the batteries every six months. (*I / always / change*) And look – . (*the light / flash*)

A: Oh, yes. I can see. Why ? (*it / flash*)

B: the battery's nearly flat. (*that / mean*) So to change it. (*I / definitely / need*)

A: OK, like a good idea. (*that / sound*)

Exercise 10 :

Each sentence has one mistake with the present simple or present continuous. Correct the mistakes. The first one has been done for you.

any

currently

days

longer

moment

nowadays

right

still

temporarily

- 1 How much rent ~~you pay~~ **do you pay** every month?
- 2 I standing outside your flat now, so can you let me in, please?
- 3 We aren't planning to move house again soon, but it depend on my job.
- 4 I don't want to live here, because it don't look very nice.
- 5 We usually sleeping on the floor when we stay at my grandparent's house.
- 6 The sofa is in the kitchen right now because we paint the living room.
- 7 Do you own this flat, or are you just rent it?
- 8 Hey! Why am I cleaning the flat by myself? You don't helping me at all!

B. READING

THE CHANGING FORTUNES OF ANTARCTIC PENGUINS

Robert Gates explains how climate change has started to affect the natural habitat of the Adélie penguin

A The effects of climate change are complex, with scientists constantly trying to understand how ecosystems are affected. Nowhere is this more so than in the Antarctic – a place where no humans live permanently, but which nevertheless is undergoing change due to human interference.

B Over the last five years, scientists have been examining the populations of different types of penguin that inhabit the Antarctic continent. In particular, they have been looking at penguins living on Ross Island – a huge island connected to the Antarctic mainland by a permanent sheet of ice, and formed from four large volcanoes, one of which is still active. On the western side of Ross Island is Cape Royds, home to a colony of Adélie penguins. In 2000, there were estimated to be about 4,000 Adélie nests, but a survey carried out in the last few months found that the number had fallen to 2,100.

C Scientists say there are two main reasons for the population decline in this part of Ross Island. Firstly, Adélies cannot lay their eggs directly onto ice or snow. However, the average winter air temperature of the area has risen in the past half century. This causes more snow to fall, which buries the rocks on which Adélie penguins would typically construct their nests. Secondly, after a female Adélie lays her egg, she walks to the sea in search of food, while the male remains behind to hatch the egg. As soon as the female reaches an area of open sea, she will dive into the water and start feeding. When the female returns with fish for the penguin chick to eat, the hungry male also hurries off to reach the sea. In previous centuries, the walk would have been relatively short, between 15 and 20 kilometres. But in 2000, a large iceberg blocked the mouth of McMurdo Sound, where many Adélie penguins went to find food. At the same time, the ice in the bay at Cape Royds failed to break up as it had done in the past. This meant the Adélies then had to walk much further over the ice – often up to 75 kilometres – before they could reach the ocean. The result was often that the parent waiting on the nest became too hungry to wait any longer, and the eggs were abandoned.

D Elsewhere on Ross Island, in contrast to McMurdo Sound, the situation is more encouraging. At Cape Crozier, Adélie penguins are thriving. The colony is now thought to have an estimated 230,000 breeding pairs, an upturn of 20% over the last three decades. Penguins nesting on this part of Ross Island may actually be benefiting from human activity, scientists suspect. In 1996, a fishing company opened near the area, and started fishing for vast quantities of Chilean sea bass – otherwise known as the Patagonian toothfish. As both the Adélies and the sea bass eat silverfish, competition for this food source has now been dramatically reduced, and this may partly explain why penguin numbers have risen at Cape Crozier.

E However, it isn't fish, but krill – tiny, shrimp-like creatures that live just below the pieces of ice that float on the sea – that form the largest part of an Adélie's diet. Unfortunately, krill numbers are also declining rapidly. Dr So Kawaguchi, a biologist working for the Australian government's Antarctic Division, suspects he knows the main reason behind this. He accepts that commercial fishing is partly responsible for huge amounts of krill being removed from the sea, but he points to rising levels of carbon dioxide as the chief cause. It is this which is making the waters of the Antarctic more acidic, in turn preventing the krill eggs from hatching. Diminishing levels of krill not only means less food for penguins. Digesting up to 40 million of these tiny animals per day, most whales depend on them for survival, too. Also, thanks to their more diverse diet, Gentoo penguins, a species which eats squid and small crab-like creatures as well as krill, have hardly been affected by this situation. In fact, their numbers appear to be on the rise. Other species, such as the Chinstrap and Emperor penguins, however, have the same narrow diet as Adélies.

Scientists are now concerned that Adélie penguins will be forced to move further south in search of more suitable breeding and feeding locations. A team made up of researchers from Stanford University, USA, and the British Antarctic Survey have recently used geolocation sensors attached to a number of penguins to track them in order to better understand their patterns of migration. They know that Adélie penguins leave their nesting areas in February to begin the slow march north to avoid the darkest time of the year. Around 480 kilometres from completely open water, they stop on the floating sea ice to spend time feeding and increase their body weight. They then turn around, and march back to the nesting areas – a journey of about 13,000 kilometres in total. Scientists also know that Adélies have never lived further south of Cape Royd, and suspect that this is because they need light in order to navigate and search for food. It also allows them to spot such predators as the skua – a large bird that can easily kill young penguins. So, will the Adélies be able to adapt, move further south, and live in a darker environment? Scientists doubt that this kind of evolutionary change can happen in a short time.

Exercise 1:

Read the information. Then match the general descriptions of the Reading passages with the passage headings.

In the IELTS Reading test, you will read three Reading passages. They will usually have a heading and a 'subheading' (a sentence under the heading, which gives you more information on the topic of the article). Quickly looking at the heading and subheading will give you a good understanding of what the passage is about.

a description of another culture

a description of how something is getting better or worse

a discussion of the effect that something has on something else

an explanation of how one section of society is helping to bring about positive change

an explanation of what someone needs to do

an explanation of when something began and how it has developed

- The changing fortunes of Antarctic penguins
- The history of chocolate
- What does it take to become an astronaut?
- Matariki celebration
- How young volunteers are making a difference
- How birth order might affect a child's personality

Exercise 2: Read the heading and the subheading from a Reading passage.

THE CHANGING FORTUNES OF ANTARCTIC PENGUINS

Robert Gates explains how climate change has started to affect the natural habitat of the Adélie penguin

Think about the kinds of information that may be included in the passage. Then read the statements below and decide whether they are likely or unlikely to appear in the Reading passage.

1. An explanation of how the Adélie penguin population in the Antarctic has increased or decreased.

Likely

Unlikely

2. An explanation of the best places to see penguins around the world.

Likely

Unlikely

3. A discussion of why one species of penguin is doing better or worse than others.

Likely

Unlikely

4. An explanation of when people first discovered penguins and how these animals caught the imagination of people around the world.

Likely

Unlikely

5. A discussion of how global warming has affected the environment in which one species of penguin lives.

Likely

Unlikely

Exercise 3: Read the information. Then read the first sentence of each paragraph (1–4) from the Reading passage. What is each paragraph about? Choose the correct answers.

In the IELTS Reading test, it's important to first skim the text to try and get a general idea of what it is about.

As well as reading the heading and subheading, it's very useful to look at the first sentence of each paragraph. These often 'introduce' the paragraph and may explain what it's going to be about.

THE CHANGING FORTUNES OF ANTARCTIC PENGUINS

Robert Gates explains how climate change has started to affect the natural habitat of the Adélie penguin

1. The effects of climate change are complex, with scientists constantly trying to understand how ecosystems are affected. ...
 2. Over the last five years, scientists have been examining the populations of different types of penguin that inhabit the Antarctic continent. ...
 3. Scientists say there are two main reasons for the population decline in this part of Ross Island. ...
 4. Elsewhere on Ross Island, in contrast to McMurdo Sound, the situation is more encouraging. ...
-

1. The first paragraph is an introduction to the whole Reading passage, which is about ...
 - a. what experts have learnt about changes to the environment and wildlife.
 - b. whether or not climate change exists.
2. The second paragraph is about ...
 - a. what scientists want to know about penguins in the Antarctic.
 - b. what scientists have already learnt about penguins in the Antarctic.
3. The third paragraph discusses ...
 - a. two explanations for fewer penguins.
 - a. two things which should be done to prevent the decline of penguins.
4. The fourth paragraph describes ...
 - b. a place where penguin numbers are less worrying.
 - c. why we shouldn't be worried about penguins.

Exercise 4:

Read the information. Spend two to three minutes getting a general idea of each paragraph in the passage. Then choose the correct answers.

In the IELTS Reading test, you won't have time to read the whole passage in detail. Spend up to 30 seconds looking at each paragraph, skimming for the main idea of each one.

1. In paragraph _____, you can find information about where Adélie penguins lay their eggs.
2. Paragraph _____, gives information about why there is less food for Adélie penguins to eat.
3. In paragraph _____, you can find information about how many penguin nests are on Ross Island.
4. You can find some opinions about what Adélie penguins might need to do to survive in the future in paragraph _____
5. Paragraph _____ explains why one population of Adélie penguins has increased.
6. The introduction to the Reading passage is in paragraph _____

Exercise 5:

Read the information. Then do the IELTS Reading test below.

Answer the questions below. Choose NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER from the passage for each answer. Write your answers.

Now that you have an idea of the content of the different paragraphs, you can spend time reading the passage in detail to find the answers to the questions. The questions in this task type will follow the order of the text.

At the end, check your answers carefully:

Have you written the correct number of words for each answer? Here, it can be one word or two words. It can also be a number, or one word and a number. It cannot be three words or more.

Are all the words you have written actually in the passage? You mustn't change the words in any way.

Did you spell all the words correctly?

1. What geographical features have created the land of Ross Island? _____
2. How many Adélie penguin nests were counted at Cape Royds? _____
3. On what type of surface do Adélie penguins usually choose to build their nests? _____
4. What has, in the past, prevented penguins from reaching the open sea in the McMurdo Sound?

5. Approximately, what distance did Adélie penguins then have to travel to get to the sea? _____

Exercise 6:

You are going to answer some more questions related to the same Reading passage. You will need to decide what information you want to find.

Read the information and then read questions 6–13. Match the types of information you will need to look for in the Reading passage with the questions.

In an IELTS Reading sentence completion task, it is important to recognise what type of information is missing. Then it is easier to find the answer in the Reading passage.

a month or season
a specific location on Ross Island
a type of penguin
another animal living in Antarctica
something eaten by Adélie penguins and the Chilean sea bass
something that has been increasing
something that penguins do
something that penguins need to survive

6. The Adélie penguin population has increased in the part of Ross Island known as _____.
7. Both Adélie penguins and the Chilean sea bass feed on _____.
8. Dr Kawaguchi believes that an increase in _____ is the main reason for declining numbers of krill.
9. Not only penguins, but also _____ will be affected by smaller krill populations.
10. The _____ species of penguins have more variety in their diet than other penguins.
11. British and American scientists have used special equipment to find out more about penguin _____.
12. The British-American team knows that it is in _____ that the penguins begin to walk in a northerly direction.
13. It is now thought by the British-American team that penguins require _____ to help them avoid threats and to find food.

Exercise 7: Complete the sentences below. Choose NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS from the passage for each answer.

1. The Adélie penguin population has increased in the part of Ross Island known as _____.
2. Both Adélie penguins and the Chilean sea bass feed on _____.
3. Dr Kawaguchi believes that an increase in _____ is the main reason for declining numbers of krill.
4. Not only penguins, but also _____ will be affected by smaller krill populations.
5. The _____ species of penguins have more variety in their diet than other penguins.

6. British and American scientists have used special equipment to find out more about penguin _____
7. The British-American team know that it is in _____ that the penguins begin to walk in a northerly direction.
8. It is now thought by the British-American team that penguins require _____ to help them avoid threats and to find food.

Exercise 8:

Read the information. Then match the words in the box from the Reading passage with the phrases in bold in the questions which have a similar meaning.

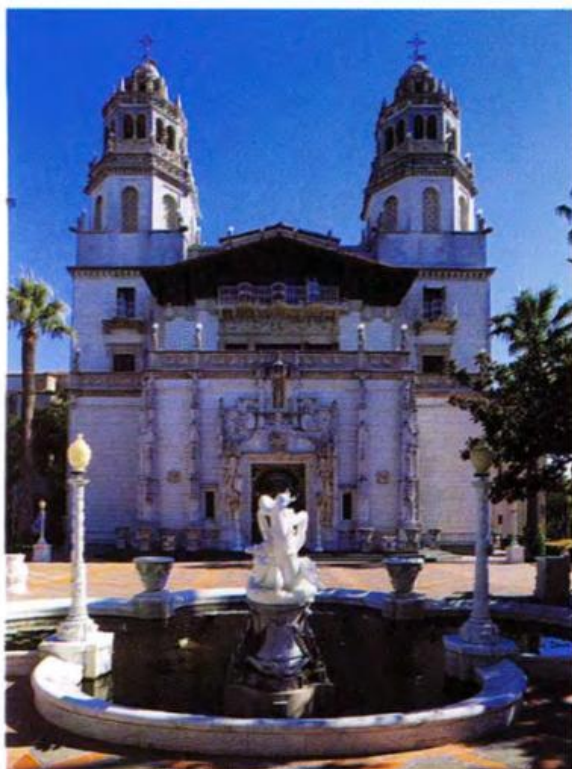
Very often, the information in the questions will be expressed differently in the Reading passage. An important part of the IELTS Reading test is recognising how different words or phrases can have a similar meaning.

Adélie penguins are thriving
diminishing
diverse
eat
geolocation sensors
need
rising levels of
slow march north

4. **The Adélie penguin population has increased** in the part of Ross Island known as Cape Crozier.
5. Both Adélie penguins and the Chilean sea bass **feed on** silverfish.
6. Dr Kawaguchi believes that **an increase in** carbon dioxide is the main reason for declining numbers of krill.
7. Not only penguins, but also whales will be affected by **smaller** krill populations.
8. The Gentoo species of penguins have more **variety** in their diet than other penguins
9. British and American scientists have used **special equipment** to find out more about penguin migration.
10. The British-American team know that it is in February that the penguins begin to **walk in a northerly direction**.
11. It is now thought by the BritishAmerican team that penguins **require** light to help them avoid threats and to find food.

Exercise 9:

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 Grande* (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.



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.

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 _____.