

## GET READY FOR IELTS

### IELTS WORKSHEET 4 – READING

#### SENTENCE COMPLETION

#### A. Reading skill: Paraphrasing.

##### **Exam tip:**

The sentences will refer to information in the text, but this will be paraphrased and will include synonyms and antonyms. You should scan the text to look for paraphrase of the sentences to find the section and information you need.

**Practice 1: Scan the text below for the (near) synonyms of the following words.**

|            |                |              |
|------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1. parts   | 4. coat (v)    | 7. transfer  |
| 2. typical | 5. exceptional | 8. following |
| 3. include | 6. tiny        | 9. material  |

#### **Mobile phone components**

An average basic mobile phone contains a circuit board, an antenna, a liquid crystal display, a keyboard, a microphone, a speaker and a battery.

#### **Mobile metals**

Mobiles contain many different metals:

- Copper is used for electrical circuits because it is a good electrical conductor.
- Silver is used in switches on the circuit boards and in the phone buttons because it is an even better electrical conductor. It lasts for millions of on/off cycles.
- Gold is used to plate the surfaces of the circuit board and the connectors. It is an excellent electrical conductor and does not corrode.
- Tantalum is used in the electronic components. It enables scientists to make mobiles very small.

Your mobile is also likely to contain palladium, platinum, aluminum and iron.

#### **Electrical conductivity**

Metals conduct electrical currents well. Non-metals usually make good insulators. In a mobile, electrical insulators surround the circuit.

#### **Smart mobiles**

The next generation of mobile could be made from 'smart' fabric. These types of fabric react to something in the environment and change. A smart fabric mobile could be folded and put in your pocket without breaking.



**B. Question type: Sentence completion****Exam tip**

- Underline the key idea in each question.
- Decide what type of information you need to complete the sentence.
- Read the section of the passage which deals with the key idea and choose your answer.
- Read the completed sentence to make sure it is grammatically correct.

**Practice 2: Complete the sentences below. Write NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS from the passage for each answer.**

### The life of the European bee-eater

*A brilliant movement of color as it catches its food in the air, the European bee-eater moves between three continents.*

True to their name, bee-eaters eat bees (though their diet includes just about any flying insect). When the bird catches a bee, it returns to its tree to get rid of the bee's poison, which it does very efficiently. It hits the insect's head on one side of the branch, then rubs its body on the other. The rubbing makes its prey harmless.

European bee-eaters (*Merops apiaster*) form families that breed in the spring and summer across an area that extends from Spain to Kazakhstan. Farmland and river valleys provide huge numbers of insects. Flocks of bee-eaters follow tractors as they work fields. When the birds come upon a beehive, they eat well – a researcher once found a hundred bees in the stomach of a bee-eater near a hive.

European bees pass the winter by sleeping in their hives, which cuts off the bee-eater's main source of food. So, in late summer, bee-eaters begin a long, dangerous journey. Massive flocks from Spain, France and northern Italy cross the Sahara desert to their wintering grounds in West Africa. Bee-eaters from Hungary and other parts of Central and Eastern Europe cross the

Mediterranean Sea and Arabian Desert to winter in southern Africa. "It's an extremely risky stratagem, this migration," says C. Hilary Fry, a British ornithologist who has studied European bee-eaters for more than 45 years. "At least 30 percent of the birds will be killed by predators before they make it back to Europe the following spring."

In April, they return to Europe. Birds build nests by digging tunnels in riverbanks. They work for up to 20 days. By the end of the job, they've moved 15 to 26 pounds of soil – more than 80 times their weight.

The nesting season is a time when families help each other, and sons or uncles help feed their father's or brother's chicks as soon as they come out of their eggs. The helpers benefit, too: parents with helpers can provide more food for chicks to continue the family line.

It's a short, spectacular life. European bee-eaters live for five to six years. The difficulties of migration and avoiding predators along the way affect every bird. Bee-eaters today also find it harder to find food, as there are fewer insects around as a result of pesticides. Breeding sites are also disappearing, as rivers are turned into concrete-walled canals.

1. Bee-eaters' prey are bees and other \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Bee-eaters need to remove the \_\_\_\_\_ from bees before eating them.
3. There is plenty of food for bee-eaters on agricultural land and in \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Bee-eaters migrate to spend the winter in different parts of \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Because of \_\_\_\_\_, almost one-third of bee-eaters do not survive migration.

6. Bee-eaters make nests in \_\_\_\_\_, which they build themselves.
7. When nesting, the \_\_\_\_\_ receive food from different family members.
8. One problem for bee-eaters is \_\_\_\_\_, which have reduced the amount of food available.

**Practice 3: Complete the sentences below. Choose NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS from the text for each answer.**

### **The Young Person's Railcard**

A Young Person's Railcard gives young people the opportunity to purchase discounted rail tickets across Britain. Just imagine where it could take you - to festivals, to see distant friends or to London for a weekend break.

#### **Who can apply?**

Absolutely anybody between 16 and 25 can apply. You will need to provide proof that you are under 26 years of age. For this, only your birth certificate, driving licence, passport or medical card will be acceptable. Alternatively, if you are a mature student over this age but in full-time education, you can also apply. In order to prove your eligibility, you will need to get your headteacher, tutor, or head of department to sign the application form as well as one of your photos, the latter also needing to be officially stamped. 'Full-time education' is defined as over 15 hours per week for at least 20 weeks a year.

Then go along to any major railway station, rail-appointed travel agent or authorized student travel office with your completed application form from this leaflet, together with £28, two passport-sized photos and proof of eligibility.

#### **Using your railcard**

You can use it at any time - weekends, Bank Holidays or during the week. But if you travel before 10 am Monday to Friday (except during July and August) minimum fares will apply. For full details of these, please ask at your local station or contact a rail-appointed travel agent.

#### **Conditions**

In cases where a railcard does not bear the user's signature, it will be treated as invalid. Neither your railcard nor any tickets bought with it may be used by anybody else. Unless there are no purchase facilities available at the station where you began your journey, you will be required to pay the full fare if you are unable to produce a valid ticket for inspection during a journey. Reduced rate tickets are not available for first-class travel or for Eurostar links to France and Belgium. Passengers will be charged the full rate if they want to use these services.

1. Railcard applicants over 25 need to be involved in \_\_\_\_\_.
2. For mature, full-time students, one of the photographs submitted must be signed and \_\_\_\_\_.
3. At certain times of the year, there are no \_\_\_\_\_ for railcard holders at any time of day.
4. If your railcard doesn't have your \_\_\_\_\_ it will be impossible to use it for travel.
5. The benefits of a railcard are not transferable to \_\_\_\_\_.
6. If you have no ticket but boarded a train at a station without any \_\_\_\_\_ you will still be eligible for a discounted ticket.
7. If railcard holders wish to use the Eurostar network they must pay the \_\_\_\_\_.