

Exercise 4

Read the tip box about the True / False / Not Given task. Then read the statements and choose the correct answer.

True / False / Not Given tasks

Learners of English at all levels of proficiency are familiar with reading and listening tasks that ask them to decide if statements about the text are true or false. In the IELTS Reading test, this task type is given a twist: instead of two options (True or False), there are three: True, False or Not Given. In particular, it appears to be the identification of this third option, Not Given, that many candidates consider to be a real challenge.

There seems to be a widely held misconception that these questions have been written to trick candidates. While there are certainly pitfalls to be avoided, the questions are designed to enable you to develop a very important reading skill: being able to read a text closely and critically, and to tell the difference between what a text tells us and what it doesn't.

So, what does 'Not Given' actually mean? Firstly, it isn't the same thing as just being 'False'. With a false statement, we know that it's wrong, or not true. If a statement is 'Not Given', then we can't tell from reading the text if the statement is true or not. It might be true or false, but the text doesn't say, so we can't be sure.

1. IELTS candidates need to answer True / False / Not Given questions in the Reading and Listening tests.
 - ☐ True
 - ☐ False
 - ☐ Not Given
2. Some IELTS Reading candidates find it particularly tricky to identify when a statement is 'Not Given'.
 - ☐ True
 - ☐ False
 - ☐ Not Given
3. True / False / Not Given questions only exist in order to make candidates get some of the questions wrong.
 - ☐ True
 - ☐ False
 - ☐ Not Given

4. If a text doesn't confirm that a statement is true, but the statement isn't actually wrong, then the answer is 'False'.
- ☐ True
 - ☐ False
 - ☐ Not Given
5. 'Not Given' basically means 'we don't know'.
- ☐ True
 - ☐ False
 - ☐ Not Given