

UNIT 8: NATURAL WORLD

B. READING

Exercise 1. In this unit, you will look at IELTS Reading four-option multiple choice questions and a diagram label completion task. You will read a text on the topic of survival techniques. What vocabulary do you already know on the topic of survival techniques? Choose the correct words to complete the definitions.

1. When levels of water in your body become lower than normal: container/ evaporation/ dehydration
2. To become smaller in size, amount, degree, importance, etc.: consume/ trap/ reduce
3. To eat, drink or use something, especially in large amounts: consume/ trap/ reduce
4. When a liquid changes into a gas (e.g. water turning into steam): container/ evaporation/ dehydration
5. An object, such as a box or a bottle, that can be used for holding something: container/ evaporation/ dehydration
6. Successful or achieving the results that you want: effective/ consume/ container
7. To keep something such as heat or water in one place, especially because it is useful (verb): reduce/ dehydrate/ trap

Exercise 2. Read the information. Then read the first paragraph. Choose the correct option to answer the question.

In an IELTS Reading four – option multiple choice task, the question are in the same order as the information in the text, so the answer to the first question will be before the answer to the second question, etc.

Only **one** option is correct, so when you have found the part of the text that answers your question, you should read the text and each option A – D carefully – to make sure the option you choose matches exactly what the text says.

Dealing with survival situations in the wild

Over the last few years, there has been an increase in the number of television program that show experts explaining how to survive in the wild. They use their experience to create fires, build shelters, find water and decide which plants are safe to eat and which might kill you. While these programs are no doubt highly entertaining, what is less certain is how successful they are at really educating viewers at home. Last year, over 2,300 hikers were reported lost in the wild in the USA.

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While most of them were eventually rescued, not all were so lucky. Some of the survivors told their rescuers that they had been these kinds of television program, and had believed they had learnt some useful skills. It turned out, however, that building a fire from wet wood and finding a source of clean water was a lot harder than they had imagined.

1. What does the writer say about television programs on the subject of surviving in the wild?

- A. The people who make the programs know little about surviving in the wild?
- B. The people who appear on the programs are never in real danger themselves.
- C. The programs fail to make ordinary people aware of how difficult it is to survive.
- D. The programs should not discuss the stories of people who have not survived.

Exercise 3. Read the second and third paragraphs of the text. Then choose the correct options to answer the questions.

The human body is approximately 75% water – and this water has several important functions, including keeping the body at the right temperature. If a person doesn't drink water, it will take only two or three days for them to become dehydrated, and their body temperature may either drop or rise to dangerous levels. Often it is the case that hikers or campers who are lost in the wild don't start thinking about how they can find a new source of water until they run out of it, by which time it may be too late. They haven't thought about the consequences of dehydration, and neither do they recognise the warning signs. An ache in the kidneys, a headache, general confusion – all of these can tell someone that they are in need of water.

The average person loses 2 -3 litres of water every day just through normal activities such as breathing. It's impossible to avoid losing water from body, but there are ways to slow it down. For example, when it may be necessary to build a shelter in the wild to sleep in, this should be carried out in the shade rather than in full sun. This reduces the amount of sweat which is produced when body temperature rises, which is, of course, water leaving the body. Some people may find it surprising that eating may increase chances of dehydration, but digestion does require water, so eating should be avoided if water is short. Hiking at night when the temperature drops is also option, but only if hikers have a good torch or there is a full moon.

1. In the second paragraph, the writer makes the point that

- A. The speed at which dehydration occurs in people depends on the environment.
- B. People use all the water they have and only then start thinking how to get more.
- C. Most people know when they are beginning to suffer from dehydration.
- D. People should find out where water is located before they go hiking?

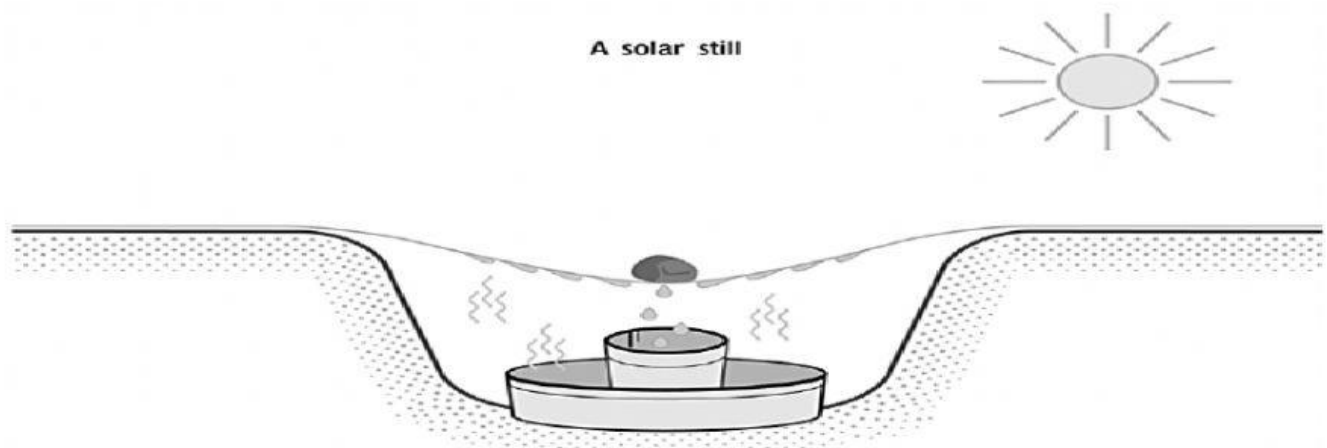
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2. What recommendation does the writer make for reducing water loss?

- A. It's never a good idea to travel later the sun has gone down.
- B. It's best to consume food in small amounts and regularly.
- C. Hiker should not waste their time making a basic place to stay in.
- D. It's a good idea to keep cool while doing any activity.

Exercise 4. Read the information. Then look at the diagram of the process involved in a *solar still*. Put the sentences in the correct order to complete the description of the process.

In the IELTS Reading test, you may have to label a diagram. In order to do this, you will need to read carefully to understand a process that is described in the text and shown in the diagram.



So how does a solar still work?

Even though the salt content in this kind of water is great, the processes of evaporation and condensation will remove it, and then the water can be drunk.

The hole is then covered with a plastic sheet, as this kind of material will trap rising water as it evaporates.

Once the gas cools and turns back into water, it can fall into the container below.

If people are near an ocean, water from here can be added to a second, larger container, and placed beneath the narrow one.

A deep hole is dug into the ground and a narrow container is placed at the bottom of it.

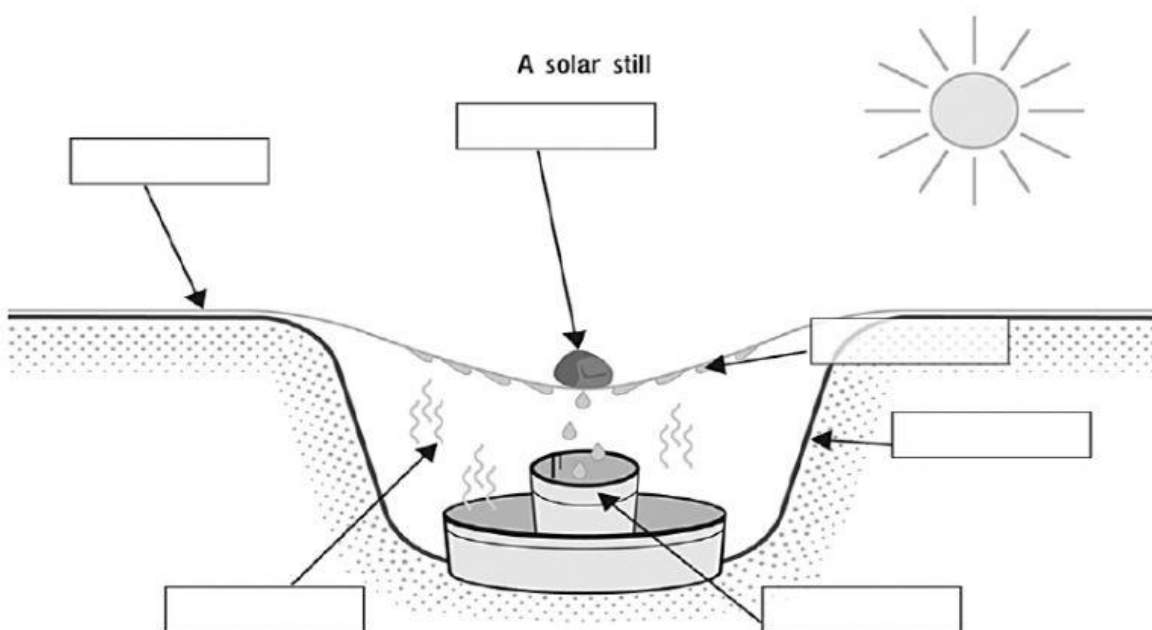
To ensure that the maximum amount of water possible is collected, a heavy object such as a small rock should be placed in a central position above the container so that the water drops can fall directly into it.

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Exercise 5. Read the text and look carefully at the diagram. Then label the diagram with the bold words from the text.

For an IELTS Reading diagram labeling task, you should look carefully at the diagram to understand how it related to the description in the text. This will help you to quickly locate the answers you need.

So how does a solar still work? A **deep hole** is dug into the ground and a narrow **container** is placed at the bottom of it. The hole is then covered with a **plastic sheet**, as this kind of material will trap rising water as it evaporates. Once the gas cools and turns back into water, it can fall into the container below. To ensure that the maximum amount of water possible is collected, a heavy object such as a small **rock** should be placed in a central position above the container so that the water drops can fall directly into it. If people are near an ocean, water from here can be added to a second, larger container, and placed beneath the narrow one. Even though the salt content in this kind of water is great, the processes of **evaporation** and **condensation** will remove it, and then the water can be drunk.



Exercise 6. Read the complete description of a solar still and label the diagram. Write NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS for each question.

A solar still

In situations when people are unable to locate a stream or river, there are certain ways they can get water which are less difficult than others. Building a simple structure called a solar still is one of these methods, but it will be most effective in regions which have dramatic temperature changes. This is because, in very hot environments, lots of water is taken up into the air and turns into gas, a

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process called evaporation. At night time, however, when it is far cooler, the air releases the water again – the process of condensation.

So how does a solar still work? A deep hole is dug into the ground and a narrow container is placed at the bottom of it. The hole is then covered with a plastic sheet, as this kind of material will trap rising water as it evaporates. Once the gas cools and turns back into water, it can fall into the container below. To ensure that the maximum amount of water possible is collected, a heavy object should be placed in a central position above the container so that the water drops can fall directly into it. If people are near an ocean, water from here can be added to a second, larger container, and placed beneath the narrow one. Even though the salt content in this kind of water is great, the processes of evaporation and condensation will remove it, and then the water can be drunk.

Using the solar-still method will not produce enough water for people to collect and travel with, but it can ensure survival while people are waiting for rescue.

