28 Reading Test Part 7

Reading Comprehension

A

Focus: Learning how to answer questions dealing with charts, tables, forms and double passages

Questions involving charts, tables and forms, and questions involving double passages, require a slightly different approach. This unit focuses on dealing with these question types.

Test tip

Understand parts of charts, tables and forms

This will help you quickly identify the parts of the passage/chart/table where the information you need can be found.

Test tip

Skim the questions and passage to find information quickly

This will help you identify which part of the text is referred to. Then compare the answer choices to that part of the chart, table or form.

1 Test tactic: Dealing with charts, tables and forms

A Below is a list of features which may be found in questions that contain charts, tables or forms. Match the features (A–F) with the section of the e-mail or the table (1–6) that it best describes. The first one (A) has been done for you.

A. Background information related to the chart/table/form or the people who use it
B. Details of how information in the chart/table/form is meant to be used
C. Information about who the text is from or intended for
D. Details/facts/numbers/dates/names
E. Extra details that indicate changes/differences to the information in the chart/table/form
F. The main focus of the chart/table/form

1. ☐ From: gordon_billings@effron.com
To: andrew_fisk@effron.com
Date: Feb 11
Subject: March visit

2. [A] Dear Andrew,

During my visit next month, I would like to discuss some of the different approaches to improving sales that were discussed at last month's sales conference. I would appreciate if you would set aside the whole day on 3 March

3. ☐ so that I can meet with you and your sales staff. I am including the most recent sales figures for last year for you to review before my visit.

See you next month,

Gordon

4. ☐

Sales of Effron Vehicles 2005

	Jan – Mar	Apr – Jun	Jul – Aug	Sep – Dec	Total Sales
Excelsior	756	598	899	465*	2718
Avenger	1024	1245	995	1523	4787
Townstar	3484	4756	6498	3156	17894
Pucchino	4735	4986	6512	4720	20953

5. ☐

6. ☐ * model discontinued in November

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Test tip

Be careful of the "small print"

Charts, tables and forms may include notes or extra information at the bottom. Check this before choosing an answer to avoid making unnecessary mistakes.

Test tip

Watch for connected information between texts

In each double passage there will be at least one question that will require you to look at both texts and connect the information.

Test tip

Double passage questions

For questions on double passages, it is important to read *both* passages before you answer.

B Now answer the following as quickly as you can.

1. What does the chart show?
   (A) The number of vehicles sold by one manufacturer
   (B) Sales figures for four years
2. Who sent this e-mail?
   (A) Andrew Fisk
   (B) Gordon Billings
3. Which model sold the greatest number overall?
   (A) Avenger
   (B) Pucchino
4. Which was the most successful period for sales of the Pucchino?
   (A) July–August
   (B) January–March
5. What happened in January?
   (A) There was a sales conference.
   (B) The Excelsior model was discontinued.
6. How many Excelsiors were sold in December?
   (A) 465
   (B) 0

Follow up: Compare your answers with your partner.

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2 Test tactic: Locate information in double text questions

A Look at the questions below and quickly identify (by checking the appropriate box) where on page 152 you should look to find the answer.

1. How did Kelvin Adams find out about the apartment? ☐ Ad ☐ E-mail ☐ Both
2. What feature probably attracted Kelvin to this apartment? ☐ Ad ☐ E-mail ☐ Both
3. How many rooms are there in the apartment? ☐ Ad ☐ E-mail ☐ Both
4. What does Kelvin request? ☐ Ad ☐ E-mail ☐ Both
5. Which of the following is likely to be a problem? ☐ Ad ☐ E-mail ☐ Both

1. Where did Kelvin Adams see the ad?
   (A) On the Internet
   (B) In the newspaper
   (C) In a shop
2. What feature probably attracted Kelvin to this apartment?
   (A) The central heating
   (B) The price
   (C) The location
3. How many rooms are there in the apartment?
   (A) 2
   (B) 5
   (C) 6
4. What does Kelvin request?
   (A) Directions to the apartment
   (B) Pictures of the apartment
   (C) An appointment in March
5. Which of the following is likely to be a problem?
   (A) The availability date
   (B) The policy on pets
   (C) The apartment size

Follow up: Compare your ideas with your partner.

B Now, look at the answer choices and choose the best answer.

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Questions 1–5 on page 151 refer to the following advertisement and e-mail.

Apartment for rent

- Modern downtown studio apartment located 10 minutes from shops and public transportation
- 2 bedrooms, kitchen, living/dining room, bathroom, balcony
- Centrally heated (gas)
- Suit young couple or professional
- Part furnishing can be arranged
- Rent $985 per month plus utilities
- Deposit + 1 month's rent in advance
- No pets
- Available mid-March

Contact Karim Patel 555 2345
Email: karim98@s_mail.com

To: karim98@s_mail.com
Cc:
From: Kelvin Adams (kelheart2@s_mail.com)

Dear Mr. Patel

I saw your advertisement in the local newspaper. I'm very interested in the apartment for my family. We are currently living in Westside, but are looking to move closer to the town center, by the end of February so this apartment would be ideal. I was hoping to be able to arrange a visit sometime next week. Monday would be the best day for us, if this is convenient for you.

In the ad, you mentioned that the place could be part-furnished. We have a small amount of furniture ourselves, but probably not enough for a two-bedroom place. Could you possibly tell us what inventory is likely to be included with the apartment?

I would also really appreciate it if you could possibly send us a couple of pictures of the bedroom and living/dining room, as well as some directions as to how to get there. Thank you very much in advance.

Yours

Kelvin Adams

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3 Tactic practice: Charts, tables, forms and double texts

Use the tactics you have learnt to answer the questions below. After each item, confirm with your partner the clues that told you the correct answer.

***Consumer's Friend* magazine**

We do the research, so you don't have to!

In our efforts to keep consumers informed, we continue to look hard at product and pricing trends throughout the region.

This month's report focuses on a year-long pricing study of the 4 largest supermarket chains in the Greater Altonville area. For this study we surveyed 2 main food staples, eggs and bread, in each chain over a full year. Surveys on individual products showed little quality difference between each of the four stores. The main difference was the price, as shown in our comparison chart below.

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Questions 1–3 refer to the following chart.

Tactics checklist

- ☑ Check what different parts of the chart, table or form refer to.
- ☑ Skim questions to identify where to look for answers.
- ☑ Be careful of the "small print".
- ☑ Watch for connected information between texts.
- ☑ Read both passages before you answer.

Price comparisons of major supermarkets

April	Eggs (dozen)	Bread (sliced medium loaf)
Floor Mart	$1.25	$0.95
5-9 Stores	$1.29	$1.15
Leavinson's	$1.35	$1.35
VFG	$1.20	$0.90*

August	Eggs (dozen)	Bread (sliced medium loaf)
Floor Mart	$1.26	$1.05
5-9 Stores	$1.35	$1.15
Leavinson's	$1.39	$1.45
VFG	$1.25	$0.95

December	Eggs (dozen)	Bread (sliced medium loaf)
Floor Mart	$1.26	$1.10
5-9 Stores	$1.40	$1.20
Leavinson's	$1.45	$1.40
VFG	$1.30	$1.10

* This food item was introduced in October.

1. Who are the intended readers of this report?
   (A) Reporters
   (B) Store owners
   (C) Researchers
   (D) Shoppers
2. Which company sold the cheapest bread in the first four months?
   (A) Floor Mart
   (B) 5–9 Stores
   (C) Leavinson's
   (D) VFG
3. What happened to the price of eggs at Floor Mart throughout the year?
   (A) It stayed largely unchanged.
   (B) It dropped slightly.
   (C) It rose dramatically.
   (D) It matched their competitors.

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Questions 4–8 refer to the following advertisement and letter.

Suntours Holidays

Experience the welcoming culture of the Greek islands. Suntours Holidays offers you a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to visit the unspoiled island of Kefalonia. Stay at the recently renovated Casa Stanoupolos Hotel, just five minutes from the beautiful blue waters of the Aegean. Each room has a balcony with a view of the beach, and a private bathroom. The hotel has two pools and a jacuzzi, as well as its own highly-rated restaurant, where you can enjoy some of the island's more traditional meals. You can also visit one of the local villages, where life continues much as it has for the past few hundred years.

Holidays include all flights and transfers, as well as a choice of one of two exciting tours: either a two-hour boat trip to nearby Turkey, or a chance to snorkel in the pristine waters of the local undersea national park.
Call (415) 555 4873 for more information on this fascinating vacation opportunity.

132B, West Bayside
San Francisco, CA 94105

24 August

Dear Sir,

I am writing to complain about a recent trip I took with Suntours. I originally signed up for a two week trip to the island of Kefalonia, as advertised in *Newsmonth* magazine, and was looking forward to enjoying the holiday. Unfortunately, I felt that a number of things spoiled the holiday for me. Firstly, I was led to believe that all rooms in the hotel had a balcony with a view of the beach. However, my room not only did not have a balcony, but it faced away from the sea. Secondly, only one of the hotel's pools was open, the other was still under construction, and the promised jacuzzi was not there at all. The hotel's restaurant was excellent, but it was closed two nights a week, meaning that my family had to walk about 30 minutes into the nearest town to eat, as there was no evening bus service. Finally, we took the tour to Turkey, but could not leave the boat, as nobody told us we had to arrange visas in advance. Had we known, we could have chosen the other option.

I feel very disappointed about the trip, and would appreciate some compensation.

Yours truly,

Dave Clayman

Dave Clayman

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4. How far is the hotel from the beach?
   (A) 5 minutes
   (B) 30 minutes
   (C) 1 hour
   (D) 2 hours
5. What is advertised as part of the package?
   (A) A suite of rooms
   (B) A private beach
   (C) A chance to visit a second country
   (D) A chance to visit historic ruins
6. How does Mr. Clayman feel about the hotel?
   (A) He is unhappy there was nowhere to swim.
   (B) He is angry his balcony was too small.
   (C) He did not like the size of the Jacuzzi.
   (D) He feels the advertisement misrepresented the hotel.
7. What was Mr. Clayman NOT disappointed about?
   (A) The view from his window
   (B) The quality of the food
   (C) The tour to Turkey
   (D) The lack of a bus service
8. Which option does Mr. Clayman wish he had chosen?
   (A) The visit to the local villages
   (B) The trip to Turkey
   (C) The snorkeling tour
   (D) The visit to Kefalonia

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