

Worksheet: Key to IELTS Video 3- Common Mistakes in IELTS Reading

Task 0

Before a listening test, you should look carefully at the questions and information on the question paper. One of the things you can do to improve your score is to get ready to **hear** key words on the question paper. This task will help you to practise.

Look at the words and phrases from this video in the box below.

- think about the pronunciation – practise saying the words or phrases out loud (in a test, you would do this silently, in your mind)
- think about the meaning – if you don't know the meaning try to work out the meaning as you listen.

confusing	eliminate	reinforce	mental	a puzzle
to puzzle over	reflect	tend to	rely on	feasible

At the end of the video, complete the vocabulary matching exercise based on these words in Task 5. You can use the interactive worksheet to test your knowledge. (NB. In some countries you may need to use a VPN for the interactive exercises).

Task 1

These tasks will help improve your listening as well as your Coherence and cohesion score in writing.

A) The paragraph below contains a lot of repetition, which lowers the Coherence and cohesion score. As you watch this part of the video, listen and read the paragraph. To improve the Coherence and cohesion, cross out the unnecessary words and replace them with the words I use in my talk.

If you look online, you'll find thousands of videos about IELTS reading. A large number of the IELTS reading videos focus on True/False/Not given questions, and many of the IELTS reading True / False / Not given videos present a rather confusing picture of True/False/Not given questions. The videos talk about common traps like comparisons, and tell you to look out for words like 'all, some, the majority' and so on. The videos also warn you that True/False/Not given questions are confusing, and say that test writers like me try to trick you in True/False/Not given questions.

B) Now fill in the gaps below with TWO WORDS. You can either do this as you listen or before listening again.

If you _____, you'll find _____ videos about IELTS reading. A _____ of these _____ True/False/Not given questions, and _____ these videos present a rather _____ of these tasks. They _____ common _____ comparisons, and tell _____ to _____ for words like 'all, some, the majority' and _____. They also _____ that these questions _____, and say that test writers _____ try to _____ in tasks like this.

Task 2

A) Listen and fill in the blanks with **ONE WORD** only.

B) When you've finished, listen again and mark the stress and intonation patterns on the completed script. Then read it aloud and practise copying the stress and intonation patterns I use.

We see a lot of examples like this, _____ the _____ all, the _____, some _____
_____. You can _____ find examples like this in test materials and videos that look very _____. These
questions are good examples of the _____ of _____ that new test writers make when they begin writing test
materials.

They have several _____ in _____. The first _____ is a 'passage' that _____
a single sentence that matches the statement in the test question very closely. The _____ here is that all
of the 'False' questions _____ on understanding _____ words like
'all, many, some' and so on.

C) The words and phrases you have just written would be useful to learn and use in your own writing or speaking. Make a note of how I use them here, and be sure to include any prepositions.

Task 3)

Decoding means being able to listen to connected speech and separate it into individual words. This helps you to understand it. To practise this skill, listen and fill in the gaps with **TWO or THREE** words.

The 'Yes' or 'True' statements _____ very easy to 'match', _____ Not Given questions _____ long
and slightly odd statement about _____ of the passage. As a _____ materials like this,
people conclude that a Not given question _____ frustrating trick being _____, where _____
to look for something that _____. And this _____ advice like this, which says that, ' _____
_____, _____ Not given.'

Task 4 – Using Higher-level Reading Skills

Global understanding of a passage means understanding what the whole passage is about. This paragraph is from Cambridge IELTS 10, p.73.

The passage is about the discovery of ancient remains of explorers from 3000 years ago. These people were called the Lapita, and the remains were discovered on Vanuatu, which is a group of islands in the Pacific Ocean. Before this paragraph, we learned that archaeologists are trying to find out how the Lapita people were able to travel and explore such big distances.

A) Read the paragraph below, then choose the correct answer, A – D. Don't use a dictionary - try to guess the meaning of any words you do not know. Notice that you can't just match words in the options and the passage.

For returning explorers, successful or not, the geography of their own archipelagos would have provided a safety net. Without this to go by, overshooting their home ports, getting lost and sailing off into eternity would have been all too easy. Vanuatu for example, stretches more than 500 miles in a northwest-southeast trend, its scores of intervisible islands forming a backstop for mariners riding the trade winds home.

Q) According to the paragraph, how was the geography of the region significant?

- A** It played an important role in Lapita culture.
- B** It meant there were relatively few storms at sea.
- C** It provided a navigational aid for the Lapita.
- D** It made a large number of islands habitable.

B) Try to explain why the other options are incorrect.

C) What do you think the word 'intervisible' means?.

Task 5

To test yourself, look at the phrases in the box and try to think of a word or phrase I used in the video that has the same meaning.

Write the correct meaning next to the words and phrases in the list below (Numbers 1-10). NB Choose your answers based on the context of the video (i.e. so that it matches my ideas).

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> make stronger | <input type="radio"/> show the same image or idea as something else | <input type="radio"/> to depend on, or to only use this |
| <input type="radio"/> to generally do this thing | <input type="radio"/> cross out | <input type="radio"/> reasonable or possible |
| <input type="radio"/> difficult to understand | <input type="radio"/> in your mind | <input type="radio"/> a question you have to answer using your knowledge or skill |
| | <input type="radio"/> to try to solve a confusing problem by thinking carefully about it | |

1. confusing _____
2. eliminate _____
3. reinforce _____
4. mental _____
5. a puzzle _____

6. to puzzle _____
7. reflect _____
8. tend to _____
9. rely on _____
10. feasible _____

Answers:

Task 4

A) None of the information in this paragraph connects the geography of the region with the culture of the Lapita people.

B) Although the paragraph tells us that the geography provided 'safety', this is not connected to storms or bad weather.

C) This is the correct answer. The paragraph tells us that the geography provided a safety net which stopped the explorers from getting lost. That means it helped them (it was an aid) to navigate back home (navigational).

D) The paragraph tells us that Vanuatu is made up of many islands, but this is not the reason people were able to live there.

You should be able to guess the meaning of the word 'intervisible' by looking at the parts of the word (use what you **DO** know to find out what you **DON'T** know) – 'inter', means 'between' and 'visible' means something that can be seen. This is referring the fact that when you are on one island, another island is visible.

Task 5

1) difficult to understand, 2) cross out, 3) make stronger, 4) in your mind, 5) a question you have to answer using your knowledge or skill, 6) to try to solve a confusing problem by thinking carefully about it, 7) show the same image or idea as something else, 8) to generally do this thing, 9) to depend on, or to only use this, 10) reasonable or possible

