

FREE TOEFL 2026 PRACTICE MATERIAL

# TOEFL Reading Practice PDF With Answers and Explanations (2026 Format)

Read in Daily Life and Read an Academic Passage sets in the 2026 shape — the passage, the questions, the key, and the reason each distractor was written. That last part is the one the printable packs on the first page of Google leave out.

## What is inside

- Every Reading passage Reach120 has editorially approved for publication in the Read in Daily Life and Read an Academic Passage task types, printed whole.
- All questions for each passage with the answer key, so the pack can be worked on paper and marked afterwards.
- An explanation for the correct answer and, for every wrong option, the reason that option was written — which is what turns a mark into a diagnosis.
- The word count and the domain of each passage, so a set can be picked for the kind of reading you want to practise.

## What it does not cover

- Complete the Words, the third Reading task type. It ships as its own pack because it is a gapped-passage drill rather than a question set.
- The two-stage adaptive delivery. A printed pack is a fixed set of passages; the router-plus-module design is part of the real test and cannot be put on paper.
- A timer. The pack is for working through and marking; the free browser drill is where the clock matters.
- Every passage in the Reading bank. Only editorially approved passages are published, which is a smaller set than the bank and deliberately so.

### DO IT SCORED, FOR FREE

Reading answers is not the same skill as producing them under time pressure. The same material runs scored, in the browser, with no card:

[Practise Reading free, with the answers explained —  
https://www.reach120.com/toefl-reading-practice](https://www.reach120.com/toefl-reading-practice)

Every question in this file is also on the page it came from:  
<https://www.reach120.com/downloads/toefl-reading-pack>

#### WHERE THIS MATERIAL COMES FROM

This pack is generated from the live Reach120 question bank rather than written for the download, and the row ids that went into it are published in a manifest beside the file. That is what makes the provenance checkable instead of a sentence you have to take on trust.

## Reading passages with answers

Each passage is printed whole with its questions underneath and its own answer key after them. Work a passage completely before you look at the key — marking one question at a time turns a test into a guided tour.

### Passage 1: Airport Shuttle Departures

Schedule · Level 3 · 97 words · 3 questions

#### CAMPUS AIRPORT SHUTTLE — WEEKDAY DEPARTURES

From Student Center to Terminal A:

5:30 a.m. · 7:00 a.m. · 9:30 a.m. · 12:00 p.m. · 3:00 p.m. · 6:00 p.m.

Travel time is about 40 minutes in normal traffic. Reserve a seat online at least two hours before departure; standby riders board only if seats remain. The 5:30 a.m. run does not operate on holidays. Bring your reservation code and a photo ID. One suitcase and one carry-on per rider; extra bags may be refused if the shuttle is full.

#### Question 1

What can a standby rider expect?

- A. A discount on the fare.
- B. A seat only if reserved riders leave room.
- C. A guaranteed seat on any run.
- D. Priority over reservation holders.

#### Question 2

According to the schedule, which statement is NOT true?

- A. The 5:30 a.m. run operates on holidays.
- B. Riders may bring one suitcase and one carry-on.
- C. There is a 6:00 p.m. departure.
- D. Travel time is about 40 minutes normally.

#### Question 3

How far ahead must a rider reserve a seat?

- A. The night before.
- B. No reservation is needed.
- C. At least two hours before departure.
- D. At least 40 minutes before departure.

## ANSWER KEY AND EXPLANATIONS

### 1. B

The schedule says standby riders board only if seats remain after reservations.

Not A: No fare discount is mentioned.

Not C: Standby is not guaranteed a seat.

Not D: Standby comes after reservation holders, not before.

### 2. A

The schedule says the 5:30 a.m. run does not operate on holidays, so 'operates on holidays' is false.

Not B: One suitcase and one carry-on per rider is allowed.

Not C: A 6:00 p.m. departure is listed.

Not D: Travel time is stated as about 40 minutes in normal traffic.

### 3. C

The schedule says to reserve online at least two hours before departure.

Not A: No overnight requirement is stated.

Not B: Standby riders board only if seats remain, so reservations matter.

Not D: Forty minutes is the travel time, not the reservation window.

## Passage 2: Art Supply Clearance Sale

ad · Level 3 · 77 words · 3 questions

### CLEARANCE AT PALETTE & CO.!

Everything must go before our spring restock. This weekend only:

- Sketchbooks: buy two, get one free
- Acrylic paint sets: 40% off
- Easels: \$20 (was \$45)
- Loose brushes: half price

Clearance items are final sale — no returns or exchanges. Gift cards still work on regular-priced stock. Doors open Saturday at 9 AM; the first twenty shoppers get a free sample tube of watercolor.

Store is at 88 Canal Street, next to the framing shop.

### Question 1

Why does the store say everything must go?

- A. Because it is making room for a spring restock
- B. Because gift cards are expiring
- C. Because it is closing permanently
- D. Because the products are defective

### Question 2

How much do the easels cost during the sale?

- A. Half price
- B. Free
- C. \$45
- D. \$20

### Question 3

According to the ad, all of the following are true EXCEPT:

- A. Clearance items can be returned within the week.
- B. The first twenty shoppers get a free watercolor tube.
- C. Acrylic paint sets are 40% off.
- D. The sale runs this weekend only.

### ANSWER KEY AND EXPLANATIONS

#### 1. A

The ad says 'Everything must go before our spring restock,' linking the sale to new stock coming in.

Not B: Gift cards still work; no expiration is mentioned.

Not C: A restock implies the store is continuing, not closing.

Not D: Nothing suggests the items are defective.

#### 2. D

The ad lists easels at '\$20 (was \$45).'

Not A: Half price applies to loose brushes.

Not B: Easels are discounted, not free.

Not C: \$45 was the original price.

#### 3. A

The ad states clearance items are 'final sale — no returns or exchanges,' so returns are not allowed.

Not B: The first twenty shoppers receive a free watercolor sample.

Not C: Acrylic paint sets are listed at 40% off.

Not D: The ad says 'This weekend only.'

## Passage 3: A Butterfly's Long Journey

Life science · Level 4 · 199 words · 5 questions

Each autumn, millions of monarch butterflies leave the cooling regions where they spent the summer and travel enormous distances to warmer wintering grounds. What makes the feat remarkable is that no single butterfly makes the round trip. [A] The insects that fly south have never seen the destination. [B] Their great-grandparents left it the previous spring. [C] Somehow, the route is passed down without being taught. [D] No parent survives long enough to guide the next flight.

How the butterflies find their way is a puzzle scientists are still unraveling. Evidence suggests they use

the position of the sun as a kind of compass, adjusting for the time of day so that they keep heading in a steady direction.

The wintering sites are strikingly specific. Generation after generation, the butterflies cluster in the same small patches of forest, where the temperature and shelter suit their needs. Crowded together on the trees, they wait out the cold months in a resting state.

Because the journey depends on these few sites and on food plants along the route, the migration is fragile. Loss of habitat at either end, or in between, can threaten a spectacle that has unfolded for countless generations.

#### Question 1

The word "unraveling" in paragraph 2 is closest in meaning to

- A. celebrating
- B. tying together
- C. working out
- D. ignoring

#### Question 2

What can be inferred from the fact that no single butterfly makes the round trip?

- A. The route cannot be learned by imitating experienced individuals
- B. Each butterfly lives for several years
- C. The route changes completely each year
- D. The butterflies never reach the wintering grounds

#### Question 3

Which sentence best states the main idea of the passage?

- A. Monarchs face no threats to their migration
- B. Monarchs migrate only when older butterflies lead them
- C. Monarch migration is a remarkable, inherited journey that is also fragile
- D. Monarch wintering sites change randomly each year

#### Question 4

Where would this sentence best fit in paragraph 1? "Several generations are born and die during a single yearly cycle."

- A. Position [C]
- B. Position [B]
- C. Position [A]
- D. Position [D]

### Question 5

According to paragraph 2, how do the butterflies appear to navigate?

- A. By memorizing landmarks from a previous trip
- B. By using the sun's position, adjusted for the time of day
- C. By following the wind
- D. By following older butterflies who know the route

### ANSWER KEY AND EXPLANATIONS

#### 1. C

Scientists are still figuring out the puzzle, so unraveling means working out.

Not A: Celebrating is unrelated to solving a puzzle.

Not B: Tying together is nearly the opposite of unraveling a puzzle.

Not D: They are actively studying it, not ignoring it.

#### 2. A

Since the travelers have never seen the destination, they cannot be copying experienced individuals.

Not B: The generations turn over, implying short lives.

Not C: They return to the same specific patches each year.

Not D: They do reach specific wintering sites.

#### 3. C

The passage stresses the inherited, remarkable journey and its fragility.

Not A: The passage says the migration is fragile and threatened.

Not B: No experienced leaders exist for the trip.

Not D: They return to the same specific sites.

#### 4. A

The sentence about several generations fits after noting that great-grandparents left the site, explaining how the route is passed down.

Not B: Position B interrupts the point that the flyers have never seen the destination.

Not C: Position A comes before the generational detail is introduced.

Not D: Position D ends the paragraph after the conclusion is drawn, making it redundant.

#### 5. B

The passage says they use the sun as a compass, adjusting for the time of day.

Not A: The migrating insects have never seen the destination.

Not C: Wind is not mentioned as a guide.

Not D: No single butterfly has made the trip before to lead others.

## Passage 4: Building Toward the Sky

History and engineering · Level 3 · 181 words · 5 questions

For most of history, the height of a building was limited by its walls. In traditional construction, thick stone or brick walls carried the weight of everything above, so a taller structure needed an ever-heavier base. Beyond a certain point, the lowest walls grew so massive that adding floors became impractical.

Two inventions removed the ceiling on height. [A] Engineers began framing buildings with rigid steel skeletons that bore the load instead of the walls. [B] Freed from carrying weight, exterior walls could become thin curtains of glass and stone. [C] Meanwhile, the safety elevator made the upper floors reachable and even desirable. [D] What had once been an exhausting climb turned into a brief, comfortable ride.

These towers reshaped cities. By stacking offices and apartments upward, they packed far more activity onto costly downtown land. Their silhouettes became symbols of ambition and commerce, and the race to build higher pushed engineers to solve new problems of wind, foundations, and fire. The modern skyline, crowded with tall buildings, is the visible result of a quiet revolution in how weight is carried.

### Question 1

What can be inferred about buildings before steel framing?

- A. They could rise indefinitely with thin glass walls.
- B. They had no lower walls at all.
- C. They relied on elevators to carry their weight.
- D. Their maximum height was constrained by how much weight the walls could bear.

### Question 2

The word "impractical" in paragraph 1 is closest in meaning to

- A. beautiful
- B. expensive
- C. temporary
- D. unworkable

### Question 3

What is the main idea of the passage?

- A. Elevators were invented before any tall buildings existed.
- B. Steel framing and the safety elevator allowed buildings to rise far higher and reshaped cities.
- C. Thick stone walls are the best way to build tall structures.
- D. Cities became less crowded once towers appeared.



#### Question 4

Look at the four markers [A], [B], [C], and [D] in paragraph 2. Where would the following sentence best fit? "With the frame doing the work, walls no longer had to grow thicker toward the ground."

- A. [C]
- B. [B]
- C. [A]
- D. [D]

#### Question 5

According to paragraph 2, what allowed exterior walls to become thin?

- A. The building had fewer floors overall.
- B. The walls were made of heavier stone than before.
- C. The elevator supported the weight of the walls.
- D. A steel skeleton bore the building's load instead of the walls.

## ANSWER KEY AND EXPLANATIONS

### 1. D

The passage says walls carried the weight and grew impractically massive, limiting height.

Not A: Thin glass walls came only after steel framing.

Not B: Older buildings depended heavily on their lower walls.

Not C: Elevators moved people, not building weight.

### 2. D

Massive base walls made adding floors unworkable, so 'impractical' means unworkable.

Not A: Appearance is unrelated to the meaning.

Not B: Cost is not the sense stressed; feasibility is.

Not C: Duration is not what impractical means here.

### 3. B

The passage credits steel skeletons and safe elevators with removing the height ceiling and transforming cities.

Not A: The passage links elevators to reaching the new upper floors, not to preceding all tall buildings.

Not C: Thick walls limited height, which the new methods overcame.

Not D: Towers packed more activity onto downtown land, increasing density.

### 4. B

The sentence follows the introduction of the steel frame and sets up the point that walls became thin, fitting at [B].

Not A: At [C] the discussion has moved to elevators, breaking the topic.

Not C: At [A] the frame has not yet been introduced, so 'the frame' has no referent.

Not D: At [D] the elevator point is complete; the wall idea would be out of place.

### 5. D

The passage says the steel frame bore the load, freeing walls to become thin curtains.

Not A: The frame allowed more floors, not fewer.

Not B: Walls became thin curtains, not heavier stone.

Not C: The elevator reached upper floors; it did not carry wall weight.

## What this pack is, and is not

Every question in these files is a Reach120 practice item taken from the bank our learners practise against. None of them is a real TOEFL test question, and nothing here is published, licensed, endorsed or reviewed by ETS.

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