

Graded Reading Passages
for
IELTS

Intermediate Level

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Preface

IELTS (The International English Language Testing System) reinforces its position as the world's most popular high-stakes English proficiency test for higher education and global migration, with a record of two million tests taken around the world in 2013. You can choose from two versions of the test – IELTS Academic or IELTS General Training – depending on the organization you are applying to. Both versions of the test are made up of four parts – Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking.

The Reading component consists of 40 questions with a time limit of 60 minutes to answer. Band scores (from 1 to 9) are awarded to candidates on the basis of their raw scores. A variety of question types is used in order to test a wide range of reading skills. They include reading for gist, reading for main ideas, reading for detail, skimming, understanding logical argument, and recognizing writers' opinions, attitudes and purpose.

It is interesting to know that a variety of questions are used in IELTS. The most common types are multiple choice, identifying information, identifying writer's views/claims, matching information, matching headings, matching features, matching sentence endings, sentence completion, summary completion, note completion, table completion, flow-chart completion, diagram label completion, short-answer questions. Definitely, such a variety requires practice through both intensive and extensive reading.

"Graded reading passages for IELTS" has been designed and published with the ultimate goal of developing the EFL learners' reading skills for such a test. Since there is a strong correlation between language components – vocabulary and grammar – and reading skill, a great deal of effort has been made to cover these two components based on the latest approaches and techniques. Focusing on collocations instead of words in isolation, practicing the strategy of guessing the meaning of unknown words, and dealing with the grammatical points in meaningful contexts in a cyclical mode are the most innovative

techniques used in this reading book.

This book also satisfies an urgent need for a ladder-like reading book which moves the learners ahead from the lower intermediate to upper intermediate level due to its graded passages in terms of readability. A wide range of topics, mostly scientific, are supposed to pave the way for developing the learners' reading skills through content-based instruction as one of the most prestigious communicative approaches.

The authors had the opportunity of teaching reading courses at different universities and institutes. Therefore, they got totally aware of the merits and demerits of similar materials available on the market. In the current book, the authors did their best to incorporate the best features of available reading books and include the requirements of the reading section of IELTS test. It should be noted that the quality of such integration was assessed by teaching the first draft to several groups of EFL learners before its publication.

No claim of perfection is made as time and knowledge are concerned. The authors hope that the book will be of great help to those who want to take a giant leap in reading skill.

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