


JURASSIC ENGLISH™

# IELTS Reading Starter Sheet

Find the trap that costs you marks in 20 minutes: Lesson 1 of the Reading Ladder as a short, complete mini-pack.

**Lesson 1** | **20 minutes** | **IELTS Reading** | **Practice only**



Licensed edition · single-buyer licence

# Your 20 minutes

You will find out which trap costs you the most marks in IELTS Reading, and learn the one move that fixes it. This sheet is a shortened Lesson 1 of the IELTS Reading Ladder.

| Minutes | What you do | Page |
|---|---|---|
| 3 | Learn the four moves and see one wrong answer fixed | 3 |
| 11 | Cold test: read the passage and answer 8 questions, timed, no help | 4 to 5 |
| 4 | Check with the key, then count and code every miss | 6 |
| 2 | Pick the lesson that fixes your most common trap | 7 |

**You need:** a timer, a pencil, and a quiet place. No dictionary and no phone while you test.

> ***Practice material, not an official IELTS test.*** *It gives no band and promises none. You count your own score and your own traps.*

# The four moves

For every question, do the same four moves, then say the evidence aloud:

1. **Analyze:** underline the small words that change meaning (every, only, all, never, first).
2. **Locate:** find the sentence in the passage that talks about the same thing.
3. **Compare:** put the question next to the passage words. Same meaning, opposite meaning, or not mentioned?
4. **Decide:** write the answer, and say: "The passage says '...', so the answer is ...".

## The five traps (your wrong answers will fall into one of these)

| Code | Trap |
|---|---|
| **WM** word match | The option repeats passage words but says something different. |
| **PM** partial match | Half the claim is in the passage; the other half is not. |
| **OP** opposite | The passage says the reverse (a negative, a contrast word, a reversed cause). |
| **EX** extra claim | The claim goes further than the passage (all, always, the main reason). Often NOT GIVEN. |
| **LT** lost time | You found the right place too late, or never reached the question. |

## Worked example: fix the reasoning

**Passage sentence:** *Since the square reopened, the market has run one evening each week, on Fridays.*

**Statement:** *The market now opens every evening.*

A student wrote **TRUE** and reasoned: "the passage says the market opens in the evening."

**What went wrong?** The passage says one evening a week, so "every evening" is contradicted: the answer is **FALSE**. The student matched the word *evening* (WM) and ignored the word *every* (EX). **Fix:** underline the small words that change meaning before you locate.

# Cold test: the passage

*Set your timer for 11 minutes for the passage and all 8 questions. No help.*

**The Return of the Evening Market**

**A** For many years, the weekly evening market in the town centre was a quiet affair. Decades ago it had been the busiest night of the week, when families came after work to buy vegetables, bread and cheap clothes from stalls along the main street. Then the town changed. A large supermarket opened on the edge of town, and a shopping centre followed. Shoppers found that they could buy everything under one roof, leave their cars without paying, and avoid carrying bags through the rain. Gradually, the market lost its customers, and the traders who depended on them began to leave. By the time the town council discussed the market's future, only a handful of stalls remained, and most of them closed before the sun had set.

**B** The council's first response was to reduce the rent that traders paid, hoping that lower costs would bring new sellers. It did not work. A few new traders arrived, but they sold similar goods to those already on offer, and customers saw little reason to return. A local shopkeeper, who had watched the decline from her own doorway, argued that the problem was not price but atmosphere. People, she said, no longer saw the market as a place to spend an evening. They saw it as a place to buy things quickly, and the supermarket did that better.

**C** A small group of residents therefore proposed a different approach. Instead of competing with the supermarket, the market would offer what a large shop could not: food cooked in front of the customer, live music, and stalls run by people who made their own products. The group persuaded the council to close the main street to traffic on market evenings, and to hang lights between the buildings. Traders who sold hot meals were given the best positions, and young cooks were allowed to try a stall for a month for a very small fee. Within a few weeks, the street smelled of grilled food, and the sound of guitars could be heard from the corner.

**D** The change brought some unexpected benefits. Because people now stayed longer, they also spent more at the surrounding shops and cafés, several of which began to open later on market nights. Older residents, who had once visited the market out of habit, returned to meet friends, while teenagers, who had never shown any interest, came to sell handmade jewellery and second-hand books. Not everyone was pleased, however. Some long-standing traders felt that the new food stalls took attention away from their goods, and a few neighbours complained about the noise. The organisers responded by ending the music at a fixed hour and by setting aside a section of the street for traditional stalls.

# Cold test: the questions

*Questions 1 to 4. Do the following statements agree with the information given in the passage? Write **TRUE** if the statement agrees with the information, **FALSE** if the statement contradicts the information, or **NOT GIVEN** if there is no information on this.*

1. Shoppers did not have to pay to park at the new supermarket and shopping centre.
2. Reducing the rent for traders attracted many new sellers who offered different goods.
3. The local shopkeeper lost customers from her own shop because of the supermarket.
4. Some established traders were concerned that the food stalls would draw interest away from their own goods.

*Questions 5 to 8. Complete the sentences below. Choose **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** from the passage for each answer.*

5. On market evenings, the council closed the main street to _____.
6. The best positions on the street were given to traders who sold _____.
7. Because visitors stayed longer, they also spent more at the _____ shops and cafés.
8. The organisers set aside a section of the street for _____ stalls.

**My answers:** 1 _____ · 2 _____ · 3 _____ · 4 _____

5 _____ · 6 _____ · 7 _____ · 8 _____

**Stop the timer.** Time used: _____ minutes. Did you reach question 8? yes / no

# Check and count

*Try every question first. Then read the key. For each miss, write the trap code beside it.*

**1 · TRUE.** 'leave their cars without paying'. *Trap:* the passage does not say "free parking", so a reader who hunts for exact words may mark NOT GIVEN.

**2 · FALSE.** 'A few new traders arrived, but they sold similar goods'. Only a few arrived, and their goods were similar. *Trap:* word match on "rent" and "new traders" leads to TRUE.

**3 · NOT GIVEN.** The passage says only that she 'had watched the decline from her own doorway'. It never says her shop lost customers. *Trap:* extra claim.

**4 · TRUE.** 'Some long-standing traders felt that the new food stalls took attention away from their goods'. *Trap:* "established" and "long-standing" are the same idea in different words.

**5 · traffic.** 'close the main street to traffic on market evenings'. *Trap:* "lights" or "music" sit in nearby sentences.

**6 · hot meals.** 'Traders who sold hot meals were given the best positions'. *Trap:* "cooked food" is earlier in the paragraph; use the words that follow "sold".

**7 · surrounding.** 'spent more at the surrounding shops and cafés'. *Trap:* "nearby" belongs to another paragraph.

**8 · traditional.** 'a section of the street for traditional stalls'. *Trap:* "long-standing" is in the same paragraph but describes traders, not stalls.

## Count it yourself

| | Cold test |
|---|---|
| Correct (out of 8) | |
| WM word match | |
| PM partial match | |
| OP opposite | |
| EX extra claim | |
| LT lost time | |

# What to work on next

**My best set today:** TRUE / FALSE / NOT GIVEN · sentence completion (circle the one you scored best on). That is the skill to build on.

**My most common trap:** _____ → the lesson that fixes it, in the full IELTS Reading Ladder:

| If your most common trap is | Go to |
|---|---|
| Word match (WM) or partial match (PM) | Lesson 4 · Paraphrase Hunter |
| Opposite (OP) or extra claim (EX) | Lesson 3 · True, False or Not Given |
| Lost time (LT) | Lesson 2 · Locate Fast |
| You pick details when the question asks for the main idea | Lesson 5 · Headings and Main Ideas |

**Prove it aloud** for three of your answers, including one you missed: "The answer is _____. The passage says _____. It matches because _____. The trap was _____."

**Three days of practice:** one timed set a day from any official practice material you own. Count your score and code every miss.

### The full IELTS Reading Ladder

Seven lessons, eight original passages, and an evidence-backed key for every question. This sheet is a shortened Lesson 1 (8 of its 12 questions). Find the full pack at **jurassicenglish.com/products**.

> *Licensed for one learner, or one tutor with their own students. No resale, sharing, uploading or redistribution. Practice material written by Jurassic English; not an official IELTS test and no band is promised. © 2026–2027 WorldWise Learning and JurassicEnglish.com.*