

IELTS Academic Reading Task Type 7 (Matching Sentence Endings) Activity—teacher's notes

Description

An activity to introduce and practise sentence completion questions on the Academic Reading paper.

Time required: 30 minutes

Additional materials required:

- none

Aims:

- to introduce sentence completion questions on the Academic Reading paper
- to practise a technique for answering them.

Procedure

1. Hand out the Student's worksheet and reading text and allow students to study them for a minute or two, reminding them to always read the instructions carefully. Tell them to underline the key words in the question stems while they are doing this.

(The following instructions apply to the task in the student's worksheet, but would have to be adapted if another task were used).

2. Explain to students that they are going to a type of sentence completion exercise in which candidates they are given the first part of a sentence based on the text and asked to complete it from a list of possible options.

3. Tell students to scan the text individually and find all the information that refers to their key words for Q8. Information may be located in more than one part of the text. Ensure students focus just on the stem part of the questions, not the answer options (A – J) in order to find the key words to scan the text for.

4. Encourage discussion in pairs of the relevant information before students look at the answer options, asking them to compare their findings with their partners. Ask them if they have found the same information and then to compare with another partner and then with the teacher.

5. Now tell students to look at the answer options (A – J). They are looking for the answer option which contains exactly the same information as in the text, even if the words used are different. They should double check this as there are often distractors which have slightly different meanings.

6. Students choose the best answer options individually.

7. Tell students to underline or highlight the key phrase in the text which gives them the answer and which is a precise paraphrase of the answer option selected.

8. When they are satisfied the information in the text and the answer option is the same, they should compare their answers with their partners. Tell students to justify their answers if they have chosen different ones. They should do this by showing the underlined or highlighted key phrases in the text to their partners and explaining the paraphrase to them. Remember, the information is always stated specifically, and is not inferred, in the text.

9. Tell students to repeat the process with the remaining questions.

10. When all the students have finished, hold a whole class check. Where there is a discrepancy between students' answers, it may sometimes be useful to work backwards to show why an answer choice cannot be correct.

For example, Q10, answer choices A and B are also logical, grammatically correct choices. However with detailed reading and understanding they can be disproved as:

A - the report includes a review not reviews

B - it is UCSF not AMA who propose smoke-free public places.

IELTS Academic Reading Task Type 7 (Matching Sentence Endings) Activity – answer keys

Key to Worksheet

Questions 8 – 10

Complete each sentence with the correct ending **A-J** from the box below.

Write the correct letter **A-J** in boxes **8-10** on your answer sheet.

NB You may use any letter more than once.

8 Passive smoking

E “Consequently, the effects of passive smoking are far greater on non-smokers than on smokers”

9 Compared with a non-smoker, a smoker

G Paragraph 2

10 The American Medical Association

H Paragraph 6

- A includes reviews of studies in its reports.
- B argues for stronger action against smoking in public places.
- C is one of the two most preventable causes of death.
- D is more likely to be at risk from passive smoking diseases.
- E is more harmful to non-smokers than to smokers.
- F is less likely to be at risk of contracting lung cancer.
- G is more likely to be at risk of contracting various cancers.
- H opposes smoking and publishes research on the subject.
- I is just as harmful to smokers as it is to non-smokers.
- J reduces the quantity of blood flowing around the body.

IELTS Academic Reading Task Type 7 (Matching Sentence Endings) Activity – Student’s Worksheet

1. Read the instructions and questions 8 – 10 below and underline or highlight the key words. Do not read the answer choices yet. Compare your key words with a partner.

Questions 8 – 10

Complete each sentence with the correct ending **A-J** from the box below.

Write the correct letter **A-J** in boxes **8-10** on your answer sheet.

NB You may use any letter more than once.

8 Passive smoking

9 Compared with a non-smoker, a smoker

10 The American Medical Association

- | | |
|---|--|
| A | includes reviews of studies in its reports. |
| B | argues for stronger action against smoking in public places. |
| C | is one of the two most preventable causes of death. |
| D | is more likely to be at risk from passive smoking diseases. |
| E | is more harmful to non-smokers than to smokers. |
| F | is less likely to be at risk of contracting lung cancer. |
| G | is more likely to be at risk of contracting various cancers. |
| H | opposes smoking and publishes research on the subject. |
| I | is just as harmful to smokers as it is to non-smokers. |
| J | reduces the quantity of blood flowing around the body. |

2. Scan the text and find all the information that refers to your key words for Q8. Information may be located in more than one part of the text. Compare your findings with your partner. Have you found the same information? Compare with another partner and then with the teacher.

3. Look at the answer options (A – J). You are looking for the answer option which contains exactly the same information as in the text, even if the words used are different. Double check this as there are often

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distractors which have slightly different meanings. Underline or highlight the key phrase in the text which gives you the answer and is a precise paraphrase of the answer option selected.

4. When you are satisfied the information in the text and the answer option is the same, compare with your partner. You may need to justify your answer if you have chosen different ones. Do this by showing your underlined or highlighted key phrases in the text to your partner and explaining the paraphrase to them. Remember, the information is always stated specifically, not inferred, in the text.

5. Continue in the same way with the rest of the questions.

The Risks of Cigarette Smoke

Discovered in the early 1800s and named 'nicotianine', the oily essence now called nicotine is the main active ingredient of tobacco. Nicotine, however, is only a small component of cigarette smoke, which contains more than 4,700 chemical compounds, including 43 cancer-causing substances. In recent times, scientific research has been providing evidence that years of cigarette smoking vastly increases the risk of developing fatal medical conditions.

In addition to being responsible for more than 85 per cent of lung cancers, smoking is associated with cancers of, amongst others, the mouth, stomach and kidneys, and is thought to cause about 14 per cent of leukaemia and cervical cancers. In 1990, smoking caused more than 84,000 deaths, mainly resulting from such problems as pneumonia, bronchitis and influenza. Smoking, it is believed, is responsible for 30 per cent of all deaths from cancer and clearly represents the most important preventable cause of cancer in countries like the United States today.

Passive smoking, the breathing in of the side-stream smoke from the burning of tobacco between puffs or of the smoke exhaled by a smoker, also causes a serious health risk. A report published in 1992 by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) emphasized the health dangers, especially from side-stream smoke. This type of smoke contains more smaller particles and is therefore more likely to be deposited deep in the lungs. On the basis of this report, the EPA has classified environmental tobacco smoke in the highest risk category for causing cancer.

As an illustration of the health risks, in the case of a married couple where one partner is a smoker and one a non-smoker, the latter is believed to have a 30 per cent higher risk of death from heart disease because of passive smoking. The risk of lung cancer also increases over the years of exposure and the figure jumps to 80 per cent if the spouse has been smoking four packs a day for 20 years. It has been calculated that 17 per cent of cases of lung cancer can be attributed to high levels of exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke during childhood and adolescence.

A more recent study by researchers at the University of California at San Francisco (UCSF) has shown that second-hand cigarette smoke does more harm to non-smokers than to smokers. Leaving aside the philosophical question of whether anyone should have to breathe someone else's cigarette smoke, the report suggests that the smoke experienced by many people in their daily lives is enough to produce substantial adverse effects on a person's heart and lungs.

The report, published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (AMA), was based on the researchers' own earlier research but also includes a review of studies over the past few years. The American Medical Association represents about half of all US doctors and is a strong opponent of smoking. The study suggests that people who smoke cigarettes are continually damaging their cardiovascular system, which adapts in order to compensate for the effects of smoking. It further states that people who do not smoke do not have the benefit of their system adapting to the smoke inhalation. Consequently, the effects of passive smoking are far greater on non-smokers than on smokers.

This report emphasizes that cancer is not caused by a single element in cigarette smoke; harmful effects to health are caused by many components. Carbon monoxide, for example, competes with oxygen in red blood cells and interferes with the blood's ability to deliver life-giving oxygen to the heart. Nicotine and other toxins in cigarette smoke activate small blood cells called platelets, which increases the likelihood of blood clots, thereby affecting blood circulation throughout the body.

The researchers criticize the practice of some scientific consultants who work with the tobacco industry for assuming that cigarette smoke has the same impact on smokers as it does on non-smokers. They argue that those scientists are underestimating the damage done by passive smoking and, in support of their recent findings, cite some previous research which points to passive smoking as the cause for between 30,000 and 60,000 deaths from heart attacks each year in the United States. This means that passive smoking is the third most preventable cause of death after active smoking and alcohol-related diseases.

The study argues that the type of action needed against passive smoking should be similar to that being taken against illegal drugs and AIDS (SIDA). The UCSF researchers maintain that the simplest and most cost-effective action is to establish smoke-free work places, schools and public places.