

IELTS General Training Reading Task Type 4 (Matching Information) (2) – teacher's notes

Description

An activity to familiarise students with matching information in a text and how to approach this type of task.

Time required: 60 minutes

Additional materials required:

- none

Aims:

- to introduce task type 4, matching information, raise awareness of how to approach this kind of task and to give practice in re-phrasing the key information to help do the task.

Procedure

1. Hand out the sample task and the sample text. Ask students to read the task (but not try to complete it) and then put students into pairs to consider how they would approach it.
2. After 5 minutes discussion, write the following questions on the board then have students discuss them with their partner:
 - Would you read through the whole passage before trying to locate the information?
 - Would you underline key words as you were reading?
 - Would you try to match the key words you had underlined in the questions with key words you had underlined in the passage?
 - Would you do the easier questions before attempting the more difficult ones?
 - Is it necessary to understand every word to answer this type of question correctly?
3. Whole class feedback and discussion.
4. Hand out the worksheet. Students transform the statements into questions, compare in pairs then whole class check.
5. Students complete the second part of the worksheet, re-writing the questions. Compare in pairs, then whole class check. Write a few versions of each question on the board and do any related language work as necessary.
6. Direct students back to the sample text and task. Ask students if all of the paragraphs will be used in the answers (no, there are more paragraphs than statements and paragraphs can be used more than once). Allow students 10 minutes to find where in the text each piece of information is located.
7. Students compare answers in pairs, before whole class check.
8. Re-direct students to the questions in step 2. Hold a further discussion, asking students if they want to alter or add anything to what was discussed earlier.

IELTS General Training Reading Task Type 4 (Matching Information) (2) – answer keys

Key to Classroom Activities 2 and 3

- Would you read through the whole text before trying to locate the information?
(It is a good idea to read through the whole text quickly before you attempt to answer the questions so that you have an idea about which sections or paragraphs contain which kind of information).
- Would you underline key words as you were reading?
(If you underline key words as you are reading this may help you to locate information quickly when you come to answer the questions. However it is important to remember that key words in the text may not be the same as in the questions - see next question and answer).
- Would you try to match the key words you had underlined in the questions with key words you had underlined in the passage?
(This is the first step you should take when looking for answers. Sometimes the key words will not be the same. The words in the list of items of information may be synonyms, they may be paraphrases of phrases or they may contain words which summarise whole parts of the text).
- Would you do the questions you are more sure of before attempting the more difficult ones?
(This is certainly the best approach to take).
- Is it necessary to understand every word to answer this type of question correctly?
(No, it isn't necessary to understand every word. But as this task focuses on reading for detail, it will certainly help if you understand most words).

Key to Classroom Activities 4 and 5

See examples on the Worksheet for 1 and 2.

- 3 examples of when your smart home might contact you
1. *What is an example of when your smart home might contact you?*
 2. *In what situation may your smart home get in touch with you?*
- 4 an explanation of why the smart home is now a possibility
1. *What is the explanation of why the smart home is now a possibility?*
 2. *Why are smart homes now possible?*
- 5 examples of how the smart home can simplify daily routines
1. *What is an example of how the smart home can simplify daily routines?*
 2. *How could the smart home make the things you do every day easier?*
- 6 a comparison of the features in a normal home and a smart home
1. *How do the features in a normal home and a smart home compare?*
 2. *What are the differences between normal homes and smart homes?*
- 7 how to get the system to cater better for your needs
1. *How can you get the system to cater for your needs better?*
 2. *How can you make the system do exactly what you want it to?*

Key to the sample task

1	D
2	G
3	C
4	A
5	E
6	A
7	H



IELTS General Training Reading Task Type 4 (Matching Information) (2)– Student's Worksheet

Look at the following statements from the sample task type 4. In this task type you need to locate the paragraph in the text that contains this information.

- 1 examples of how the smart home can warn you of danger
- 2 how inconvenience is minimised if there is a failure in the system
- 3 examples of when your smart home might contact you
- 4 an explanation of why the smart home is now a possibility
- 5 examples of how the smart home can simplify daily routines
- 6 a comparison of the features in a normal home and a smart home
- 7 how to get the system to cater better for your needs

1 To help you think about exactly the kind of information you need to find in the text, transform each statement into a question. The first two have been done as examples.

- 1 examples of how the smart home can warn you of danger
What examples are there of how the smart home can warn you of danger?
- 2 how inconvenience is minimised if there is a failure in the system
How is inconvenience minimised if there is a failure in the system?
- 3 examples of when your smart home might contact you
- 4 an explanation of why the smart home is now a possibility
- 5 examples of how the smart home can simplify daily routines
- 6 a comparison of the features in a normal home and a smart home
- 7 how to get the system to cater better for your needs

2 Using your knowledge of synonyms, grammar and parts of speech, re-write the questions so that you have alternative versions. Be careful to keep the meaning the same. This will help prepare you for the language that could be used in the text.

- 1 examples of how the smart home can warn you of danger
*How can the smart home tell you about something dangerous?
What does the smart home do if there is a problem?*
- 2 how inconvenience is minimised if there is a failure in the system
*How does the smart home avoid too much inconvenience if the system fails?
What does the smart home do to minimise problems if the system doesn't work?*

Look at these re-written questions 1 – 7. How many are similar to the ones you thought of?

- 1 examples of how the smart home can warn you of danger
How can the smart home tell you about something dangerous?
- 2 how inconvenience is minimised if there is a failure in the system
What does the smart home do to minimise problems if the system doesn't work?
- 3 examples of when your smart home might contact you
When may your smart home call you?
- 4 an explanation of why the smart home is now a possibility
How do we know that the smart home is now possible?
- 5 examples of how the smart home can simplify daily routines
What can the smart home do to make everyday tasks easier?
- 6 a comparison of the features in a normal home and a smart home
How are normal homes and smart homes different?
- 7 how to get the system to cater better for your needs
What can you do to make the system suit your requirements better?

Look at the underlined words in each question. What other words could you use as synonyms for these in each question? Brainstorm your ideas with a partner.

IELTS General Training Reading Task Type 4 (Matching Information) (2)– Sample Task

Read the passage on pages 1 and 2 answer Questions 1 – 7.

Using Computers to Control the Home

- A** Over the past 15 years, computerized controls have become more and more common in many homes. Computers control washing machines and microwaves, they turn heating on and off, and they have provided new ways to monitor the safety and security of the home. The widespread use of computers is allowing the 'smart home' to become a reality for some people. In this new 'smart home' the use of these computers is expanded into other parts of the home, creating a single network that can be easily and conveniently controlled. The use of computer controls allows elements of the home to be controlled remotely by, or to respond to, the people living in it. Where the smart house really differs from other houses is that a communications infrastructure is installed that allows the various systems and devices in the home to communicate with each other. The modern home contains a variety of systems, such as central heating, security alarms, and devices such as television and lights that usually exist in total isolation from each other. In the smart home, these systems and devices are able to pass information and commands between them so that, for example, the security alarm can turn the lights on or off.
- B** The use of computer controls allows the smart home to function in a variety of ways. Some of these will be more appropriate to some people than others. The connection of the network to a telephone line allows a variety of telephone control options for the home. The security alarm panel fitted in the hall also operates as an answering machine and can be used to dial into the house and tell it to do certain things. This system relies on a personal identification number to ensure that only you can control the house in this way. It has a series of voice prompts that will guide you through the operation of the house. If you are late coming home one evening, for example, you can call the house and get it to close the curtains as it gets dark. If you have been away from the house for a few days and want to be sure the house is warm on your return, you can call the house and switch the central heating back on.
- C** This system can also be used to call you at work or on a mobile phone, if somebody rings the doorbell when you are not in the house. Friends can speak to you and find out when you will be back so they can arrange to visit again and delivery people can be instructed to drop off parcels at a particular location on the property. By pressing a button on your phone, you can also deactivate the security system so a visitor can gain access to the house.
- D** If there is a gas leak, or if a ring on the cooker blows out, detectors in the house will identify this and turn the gas off at the mains. The house will sound an alarm to alert you to this and also disconnect the light switches, so that they cannot be used accidentally and cause a spark. In case of a fire, the smoke and heat detectors in each room will activate the fire alarm. The system can then contact the fire brigade, filing details of the alarm automatically, flash all the lights in the house and sound the alarm or unlock the outside doors to aid a safe and speedy exit.

- E** Mundane household chores can be automated. When you wake up in the morning, you can push a control by the bed that turns the bedroom light and television on, starts the shower running, opens the downstairs curtains and switches on the kettle. When sitting down in the evening to watch television, a single button on the remote control can turn the set on, draw the curtains and dim the lights.
- F** The smart home uses a distributed control system so, if one part of the house stops working, the rest of the house will still be able to operate as usual. If something does stop working, you will need to contact your installation company who will either be able to fix the problem over the telephone or will come out to repair the device.
- G** The smart home system is designed to keep you and your house safe in any circumstances. In the case of power failure, all the devices in the house will revert to a safe mode. So, for example, you will still be able to unlock doors. In the same way as in a normal house, some of the systems, like the central heating, will not work without power. However, most of the special devices in the home have a battery back-up so they can be used in a power cut, though they may need to be operated by their switches rather than a remote control.
- H** The smart home is designed so that it can be customized to suit the needs of the people living in it. As a minimum, heating, lighting and security controls would normally be installed. If there are devices that you think you would not use, these need not be installed. If you have any specific needs, additional equipment can usually be installed. If you find that the way the house responds to certain orders is not ideal for you, the smart home can be reprogrammed to work differently. You should contact the installation company who will be able to make adjustments to the system so that it is more customized to your needs. This can usually be done by the installation company from their offices and generally will not involve a visit to the house.

Questions 1 – 7

The passage on pages 1 and 2 has eight paragraphs labelled **A-H**.

Which paragraph contains the following information?

*Write the correct letter **A-H** in boxes 1-7 on your answer sheet.*

NB You may use any letter more than once.

- 1 examples of how the smart home can warn you of danger
- 2 how inconvenience is minimised if there is a failure in the system
- 3 examples of when your smart home might contact you
- 4 an explanation of why the smart home is now a possibility
- 5 examples of how the smart home can simplify daily routines
- 6 a comparison of the features in a normal home and a smart home
- 7 how to get the system to cater better for your needs

