

IELTS Academic Reading Task Type 2 (Identifying Information) and Type 3 (Identifying Writer's Views/Claims) Activity – teacher's notes

Description

An activity to prepare students for task types 2 and 3 which takes them through a step-by-step procedure to answer this type of question.

Time required: 45 minutes

Additional materials required:

- further task types 2 and 3 for homework.

Aims:

- to prepare students for task types 2 and 3, taking them through a step-by-step procedure to answer this type of question.

Procedure

1. Hand out sample task to students. Give the students 60 seconds to look at the title and skim the first sentence of each paragraph to find out what the text is about.
2. Students exchange ideas with their partners.
3. Hand out worksheet 1. Students work through it in pairs.
4. Hold a whole class check after exercises 1, 2 and 3 on worksheet 1 to make sure students have located the correct sections of the text.
5. Hand out key to worksheet 1 to the class or show it on an OHT. Students compare their sentences with the B sentences on key to worksheet 1.
6. Handout worksheet 2. Go through it with students first, checking they understand the differences between yes, no and not given.
7. Go through the answers with the whole class, asking students with the correct answers to explain them to the class. Give help as required.
8. Ask students how they feel about this type of task. They will no doubt say they find it difficult. Discuss the tips provided in Additional information below.
9. Give further task types 2 and 3 for homework and ask students to repeat the same procedure.

Additional information – Tips for this task

- It is important to remember that the answer is always in the text.
- Do not use your own knowledge about the topic in the text or make assumptions – use only the information in the text.
- If you're not sure of the answer, don't spend too long thinking about it. Choose an answer choice and move on.
- This task type becomes much easier with practice – so practise a lot!



IELTS Academic Reading Task Type 2 (Identifying Information) and Type 3 (Identifying Writer's Views/Claims) Activity – answer keys

Key to Worksheet 1 Exercises 1, 2 and 3 – Step 2 (key words)

Key words in **bold**:

1. **Thirty per cent** of **deaths** in the **United States** are **caused** by **smoking-related diseases**.
2. If **one partner** in a **marriage smokes**, the **other** is likely to **take up** smoking.
3. **Teenagers** whose **parents smoke** are at risk of getting **lung cancer** at some time during their lives.
4. **Opponents** of smoking **financed** the **UCSF study**.

Key to Worksheet 1 Exercises 1, 2 and 3 – Step 3 (paraphrase)

Alternative ways of expressing each statement: (many variations possible)

1. Smoking is responsible for just under a third of all deaths in the US.
2. If a husband or wife smokes, their spouse tends to start smoking too.
3. Parents who smoke make their children breathe their smoke too, and this can cause lung cancer in their children later in life.
4. The funding for the UCSF study came from people who are against smoking.

Key to Worksheet 1 Exercises 1, 2 and 3 – Step 4 (repeated words)

Key words found in both the statements and in the text shown in bold:

1. **Thirty per cent** of **deaths** in the **United States** are caused by smoking-related diseases.
2. If **one partner** in a **marriage smokes**, the other is likely to take up smoking.
3. Teenagers whose parents **smoke** are at risk of getting **lung cancer** at some time during their lives.
4. **Opponents** of smoking **financed** the **UCSF study**.

Key to Sample Task

1. No – the text talks about percentages of deaths from cancer whereas in the statement it talks about deaths in general.
2. Not given – the text talks about the effects on the partner of passive smoking but doesn't mention if the partners tend to start smoking themselves.
3. Yes – the text states that lung cancer can be attributed to high levels of exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke during childhood and adolescence – in other words, children and teenagers breathing their parents' smoke.
4. Not given – the text states that the American Medical Association is an opponent of smoking but doesn't say whether UCSF is or not.



IELTS Academic Reading Task Type 2 (Identifying Information) and Type 3 (Identifying Writer's Views/Claims) Activity – answer keys

Key to Worksheet 1

- 1 A Thirty per cent of deaths in the United States are caused by smoking-related diseases.
- 1 B *Smoking, it is believed, is responsible for 30 per cent of all deaths from cancer.*
- 2 A If one partner in a marriage smokes, the other is likely to take up smoking.
- 2 B *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.*
- 3 A Teenagers whose parents smoke are at risk of getting lung cancer at some time during their lives.
- 3 B *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.*
- 4 A Opponents of smoking financed the UCSF study.
- 4 B *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. 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.*

IELTS Academic Reading Task Type 2 (Identifying Information) and Type 3 (Identifying Writer's Views/Claims) Activity – Student's Worksheet 1

Exercise 1

1. Read this statement:
Thirty per cent of deaths in the United States are caused by smoking-related diseases.
2. Discuss with your partner which key words in the statement you could scan the text for.
3. Remember synonyms or paraphrasing might be used. Brainstorm some different ways of expressing this same information.
4. Start at the beginning of the text and scan the text until you find the part which this statement refers to. See if you can find the relevant section more quickly than your partner. Underline the sentence(s). Which words from the statement did you find in the text?

Exercise 2

1. Read this statement:
If one partner in a marriage smokes, the other is likely to take up smoking.
2. Discuss with your partner which key words in the statement you could scan the text for.
3. Remember synonyms or paraphrasing might be used. Brainstorm some different ways of expressing this same information.
4. Start from the place in the text where you found your last answer. You do not need to start at the beginning again as the answers are in the text order. Scan the text until you find the part which this statement refers to. Try to find the relevant section more quickly than your partner. Underline the sentence(s). Which words from the statement did you find in the text?

Exercise 3

1. Repeat the process with the statements:
Teenagers whose parents smoke are at risk of getting lung cancer at some time during their lives.
Opponents of smoking financed the UCSF study.
2. Look at the key to worksheet 1. Compare your underlined sections in the text with the B sentences in the key. Did you find the same ones?

IELTS Academic Reading Task Type 2 (Identifying Information) and Type 3 (Identifying Writer's Views/Claims) Activity – Student's Worksheet 2

Read each pair of sentences in the key carefully.

Does sentence B have the same meaning as sentence A?
This means you answer 'Yes' or 'True'.

Does sentence B contain some information that contradicts sentence A?
This means you answer 'No' or 'False'.

Is the main point of the two sentences completely different?
This means you answer 'Not given'.

Always read the instructions carefully to see whether you should be answering Yes, No and Not given or True, False and Not given.

In this task, you answer

| | |
|------------------|---|
| YES | <i>if the statement reflects the claims of the writer</i> |
| NO | <i>if the statement contradicts the claims of the writer</i> |
| NOT GIVEN | <i>if it is impossible to say what the writer thinks about this</i> |

Compare your answers with your partner's. If you have different ideas, explain and justify your answer.

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.

Questions 4 – 7

Do the following statements reflect the claims of the writer in Sample Passage 8?

In boxes 4-7 on your answer sheet write

| | |
|------------------|---|
| YES | <i>if the statement reflects the claims of the writer</i> |
| NO | <i>if the statement contradicts the claims of the writer</i> |
| NOT GIVEN | <i>if it is impossible to say what the writer thinks about this</i> |

- 4 Thirty per cent of deaths in the United States are caused by smoking-related diseases.
- 5 If one partner in a marriage smokes, the other is likely to take up smoking.
- 6 Teenagers whose parents smoke are at risk of getting lung cancer at some time during their lives.
- 7 Opponents of smoking financed the UCSF study.

