Reading Test 2 – True, False or Not Given

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IELTS Reading Practice – All Levels

⏱️ **Time:** 10 minutes • 📝 **Questions:** 10 • 🎯 **Skills:** reading for detail, identifying the writer's views

This test practises **True / False / Not Given** and **Yes / No / Not Given** questions: deciding exactly what the text says, and what the writer thinks.

How to use this test: set a timer for 10 minutes, read the passage and answer all the questions. Then check your score with the Answer Key and read the explanations to see **why** each answer is correct.

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Click a heading to go straight to that part of the test.

📖 **Reading Passage – Learning a Language Later in Life**

🔎 **Questions 1–6 – True, False or Not Given**

🎯 **Questions 7–10 – Yes, No or Not Given**

✅ **Answer Key and Score**

🔄 **Answers Explained**

🧭 **What Should You Practise Next?**

⏱️ **Try It Again**



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📖 Reading Passage

Learning a Language Later in Life

A For many years, it was widely believed that children were naturally better language learners than adults. Parents often worried that if their child did not start learning a second language before the age of seven or eight, the opportunity would be lost forever. Recent research, however, suggests that the picture is more complicated.

B It is true that young children usually develop a more native-like accent. Studies of immigrant families have repeatedly found that children who arrive in a new country at an early age are more likely to sound like local speakers than their parents. In other areas, though, adults have clear advantages. They already understand how language works, they can use reading and writing to support their learning, and they are often quicker at learning grammar rules.

C Motivation also plays an important role. Children at school may study a language simply because it is on the timetable. Adults, by contrast, usually choose to learn – perhaps for work, travel or family reasons – and this sense of purpose can make a significant difference. Some language schools report that among their most successful students are people over fifty who are learning purely for pleasure.

D Of course, adult learners face their own challenges. Many have busy lives, with jobs and families competing for their time, and they may feel embarrassed about making mistakes in front of others. Children, on the other hand, tend to be less self-conscious, which encourages them to speak more freely.

E In my view, the belief that adults cannot learn languages well does more harm than good, because it discourages many people from even trying. The evidence suggests that while age affects *how* we learn, it does not decide *whether* we can learn. An adult who studies regularly and practises speaking is likely to make faster progress in the first year than a young child who has only one lesson a week. What matters most is not when you start, but how consistently you continue.

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🔎 Questions 1–6 – True, False or Not Given

Do the following statements agree with the information 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. Many parents used to believe there was an age limit for learning a language successfully.
2. Children who move to a new country often forget their first language.
3. Adults are usually slower than children at learning grammar rules.
4. Adults can use reading and writing to help them learn.
5. Children always study languages because they want to.
6. Some language schools say that older learners are among their most successful students.

🎯 Questions 7–10 – Yes, No or Not Given

Do the following statements agree with the views of the writer?

Write **YES** if the statement agrees with the writer, **NO** if it contradicts the writer, or **NOT GIVEN** if it is impossible to say what the writer thinks.

7. The belief that adults are poor language learners has negative effects.
8. Children should not start learning a second language before the age of seven.
9. Age is the most important factor in learning a language.
10. Adults who study regularly can progress faster than some children.

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✅ Answer Key

Q	Answer
1	TRUE
2	NOT GIVEN
3	FALSE
4	TRUE
5	FALSE
6	TRUE
7	YES
8	NOT GIVEN
9	NO
10	YES

Your Score

Score	What it means
9–10	Excellent. Try the next test, or repeat this one in 8 minutes.
7–8	Good. Read the explanations for the questions you missed.
5–6	A solid start. Use **What Should You Practise Next?** to choose a skill to work on.
0–4	Read the explanations carefully, then try the test again tomorrow without a time limit.

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🔄 Answers Explained

Read the passage again, without the time limit. For each question, notice how the words in the question **paraphrase** the words in the text.

Questions 1–6: True, False or Not Given

1. TRUE

Text: parents worried that if their child did not start *before the age of seven or eight, the opportunity would be lost forever* – that is an age limit.

2. NOT GIVEN

Paragraph B discusses children's **accents** in a new country, but says nothing about forgetting their first language. Same topic, but the information is missing.

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3. FALSE

Text: adults *are often quicker at learning grammar rules*. This contradicts the statement.

4. TRUE

Text: adults *can use reading and writing to support their learning*.

5. FALSE

Text: children *may study a language simply because it is on the timetable*. Watch the word **always** – one word can make a statement false.

6. TRUE

Text: *among their most successful students are people over fifty*.

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Questions 7–10: Yes, No or Not Given

7. YES

Turn it into a question: *Does the writer think the belief has negative effects?* Yes – it *does more harm than good*.

8. NOT GIVEN

Paragraph A reports what **parents** believed. The writer never says when children should start.

9. NO

The writer says *what matters most is not when you start, but how consistently you continue*.

10. YES

An adult who studies regularly *is likely to make faster progress in the first year than a young child who has only one lesson a week*.

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🧭 What Should You Practise Next?

Look at the questions you got wrong. They show you which skill to practise.

If you missed…	Practise this	Start IELTS lesson
FALSE and NOT GIVEN	the difference between information that contradicts and information that is missing	Reading: True, False or Not Given
Questions 7–10	following the writer's argument and separating it from other people's views	Reading: Understanding Paragraphs
Questions 3 and 5	small words that change meaning: *always, often, quicker, some*	Reading: Intensive Reading

Never use your own knowledge or opinion. If the passage does not give the information, the answer is NOT GIVEN.

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⏱️ Try It Again

Give yourself **3 minutes**.

Write **three new statements** about the passage: one TRUE, one FALSE and one NOT GIVEN. Writing NOT GIVEN statements is one of the best ways to understand them.

Then underline every **opinion** in paragraph E. How do you know they are the writer's opinions?

Next: Reading Test 3: Main Ideas and Headings – practise skimming and matching headings to paragraphs.

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