🩹 IELTS READING FIRST AID KIT

10 Ways to Stop Losing Marks

In Reading, the answer is always in the text. Most marks are lost by rushing, by using general knowledge, or by small mistakes when copying words.

✅ 10 Points to Check

1. **Skim first.** Spend a minute finding the main idea of each paragraph. ☐
2. **Find the keywords.** Underline names, numbers and important words in each question. ☐
3. **Look for the same meaning.** An option with the same words as the text is often a trap. ☐
4. **Check the limiting words.** *only*, *all*, *most*, *some* and *never* can change the answer. ☐
5. **Follow the order.** Most answers come in text order – but not matching tasks. ☐
6. **FALSE or NOT GIVEN?** FALSE: the text says the opposite. NOT GIVEN: the text does not say. ☐
7. **Use the text, not what you know.** True in real life can still be NOT GIVEN. ☐
8. **Copy words exactly.** Use words from the passage, and spell them correctly. ☐
9. **Keep to the word limit.** Your answer must also fit the grammar of the sentence. ☐
10. **Watch the clock.** About 20 minutes a passage, with no extra time to transfer answers. ☐

⚡ Quick Practice

Each answer is wrong. Write the correct answer.

1. Text: *Most visitors were from Europe.* Statement: *All the visitors were European.* → **TRUE**

2. Text: *The museum opened in 1998.* Statement: *It was popular when it opened.* → **TRUE**

3. *TWO WORDS.* Text: *...to reduce traffic congestion in the old town.* Gap: *built to reduce _____* → **traffic congestion in the town**

4. Text: *...carried out by marine biologists.* Gap: *done by marine _____* → **biologist**

5. Text: *...a sharp increase in the number of cyclists.* Gap: *a rise in the number of _____* → **bicycles**

Answers on the next page

READING FIRST AID KIT – ANSWERS

10 Ways to Stop Losing Marks

✔️ Answers

1 FALSE

most is not the same as *all*. Check the limiting words.

2 NOT GIVEN

The text gives the date, but says nothing about how popular it was.

3 traffic congestion

Two words only, and they fit the gap exactly.

4 biologists

Copy the word exactly as it is in the text – here, plural.

5 cyclists

Use the word from the passage. *Bicycles* are not people.

My score: ____ / 5

🚑 Your 1-Minute Check

When you check, look at one thing at a time: first **limiting words**, then **spelling**, then the **word limit**.

If you are not sure, choose your best answer and move on. A blank is always wrong.

🎯 **Want more practice?** Find full reading, vocabulary and grammar lessons – many of them free – at **startielts.co.uk**.

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