Reading Test 4 – Completion Tasks

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IELTS Reading Practice – All Levels

⏱️ **Time:** 10 minutes • 📝 **Questions:** 10 • 🎯 **Skills:** sentence and summary completion, word limits, grammar fit

This test practises **completion questions**: finding the exact words you need, checking that they fit the sentence grammatically, and keeping to the word limit.

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 – Farming Without Fields**

🔎 **Questions 1–4 – Sentence Completion**

📝 **Questions 5–8 – Summary Completion**

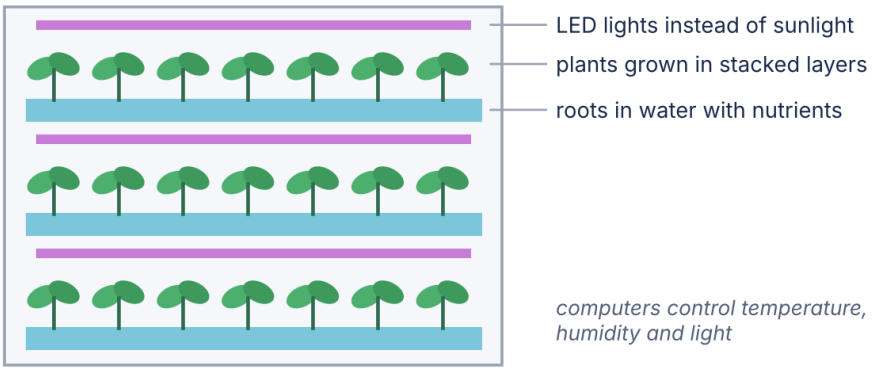
✍️ **Questions 9–10 – Short Answers**

✅ **Answer Key and Score**

🔄 **Answers Explained**

🧭 **What Should You Practise Next?**

⏱️ **Try It Again**



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📖 Reading Passage

Farming Without Fields

A By 2050, the world's population is expected to reach almost ten billion, and feeding everyone will be one of the greatest challenges of the century. One possible solution is vertical farming: growing crops indoors, in stacked layers, often inside large buildings in or near cities.

B In a typical vertical farm, plants grow without soil. Instead, their roots sit in water containing nutrients, a method known as hydroponics. LED lights replace sunlight, and computers control the temperature, humidity and amount of light that each crop receives. Because conditions stay the same all year round, crops such as lettuce and herbs can be harvested many times a year, whatever the weather outside.

C Supporters point to several advantages. Vertical farms use far less water than traditional farms, because the water is recycled rather than lost into the ground; some companies claim savings of up to 95 per cent. Pests are less common indoors, so few or no pesticides are needed. And because the farms can be built close to the people who buy the food, transport costs and emissions are reduced.

D However, vertical farming also has serious limitations. The biggest is energy. Lighting and climate control use large amounts of electricity, which makes the food expensive to produce and, unless renewable energy is used, can increase carbon emissions. In addition, the method currently works well only for small crops that grow quickly. Staple foods such as wheat and rice need too much space and light to be grown profitably in this way.

E For these reasons, most experts see vertical farming as an addition to traditional agriculture rather than a replacement for it. In the coming decades, it may provide cities with fresh salads and herbs, while fields in the countryside continue to produce the grain that feeds the world.

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🔎 Questions 1–4 – Sentence Completion

Complete the sentences below.

Choose **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** from the passage for each answer.

1. In vertical farms, plant roots are kept in water that contains _____.
2. Vertical farms use _____ instead of sunlight.
3. Crops can be harvested many times a year because the _____ stay the same.
4. Few pesticides are needed because _____ are less common indoors.

📝 Questions 5–8 – Summary Completion

Complete the summary using the words in the box. Write the correct word for each answer.

There are more words than gaps.

electricity • renewable • quickly • slowly • support • replace • water • cheap

5. The main problem with vertical farming is the cost of _____, which is needed for lighting and climate control.
6. If _____ energy is not used, the farms may increase carbon emissions.
7. At present, the method is only suitable for small crops that grow _____.
8. Most experts believe vertical farms will _____ traditional farms rather than take their place.

✍️ Questions 9–10 – Short Answers

Write **ONE WORD AND/OR A NUMBER** for each answer.

9. What is the name of the method of growing plants in water instead of soil?
   Answer: _____
10. According to some companies, up to what percentage of water can vertical farms save?
    Answer: _____

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✅ Answer Key

Q	Answer
1	nutrients
2	LED lights
3	conditions
4	pests
5	electricity
6	renewable
7	quickly
8	support
9	hydroponics
10	95 / 95%

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 1–4: Sentence Completion

1. nutrients

Text: *their roots sit in water containing nutrients*. A noun fits after *contains*.

2. LED lights

Text: *LED lights replace sunlight*. The sentence uses *instead of*, a paraphrase of *replace*.

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3. conditions

Text: *conditions stay the same all year round*. Check the grammar: *the conditions stay* – a plural noun.

4. pests

Text: *Pests are less common indoors*. Only one word is needed.

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Questions 5–8: Summary Completion

5. electricity

Paragraph D: *Lighting and climate control use large amounts of electricity*.

6. renewable

unless renewable energy is used → if renewable energy is not used.

7. quickly

small crops that grow quickly. *Slowly* is the opposite – a typical distractor.

8. support

Paragraph E: *an addition to traditional agriculture rather than a replacement*. *Replace* is a trap: it is the idea the experts reject.

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Questions 9–10: Short Answers

9. hydroponics

Paragraph B: *a method known as hydroponics*. Copy the spelling exactly.

10. 95

Paragraph C: *savings of up to 95 per cent*. *95%* is also correct.

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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
Questions 1–4 and 9–10	locating exact words and copying spelling accurately	Reading: Scanning
Questions 5–8	understanding paraphrase and opposite meanings in a summary	Reading: Intensive Reading
Any answer over the word limit	checking the instructions before you write	Reading: Scanning

Before you write an answer, read the whole sentence again with your word in the gap. Does it make sense, and is it grammatically correct?

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⏱️ Try It Again

Give yourself **90 seconds**.

Scan the passage and find: **a year** • **a percentage** • **two types of crop** • **two staple foods** • **three things computers control**.

Then cover the box in Questions 5–8. Can you complete the summary using words from the passage instead?

Next: Reading Test 5: Opinions and Inference – practise matching people to ideas and reading between the lines.

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