

Getting Ready to Read

A. Learn the words.

Key Vocabulary

solar	having to do with the sun
inside	in something
atmosphere	outer layer of gases around a planet or star

TOEFL Vocabulary

segment	part
core	the central part of something
surface	the outer part of something
eventually	after a long time
survive	to continue to be

B. Learn the question type.

TOEFL Question Type

Summary

Directions: An introductory sentence for a brief summary of the passage is provided below. Complete the summary by selecting the **THREE** answer choices that express the most important ideas in the passage. Some sentences do not belong in the summary because they express ideas that are not presented in the passage or are minor ideas in the passage.

This will be a correct summary sentence written in bold.

- This type of question asks for the main ideas in the passage to be identified.
- The incorrect answer choices will state minor ideas or ideas that are not in the passage at all.

C. Read the passage. Number each paragraph with the correct main idea or purpose.

1. Information on the surface of the sun
2. What the passage is about
3. Information on the atmosphere of the sun
4. Information on the solar core
5. What will happen to the sun

The Sun

___ The sun is a star. A star is a giant circle of burning gas. There are three main parts to the sun.

___ The first segment of the sun is the solar core. It is deep inside the sun and is extremely hot.

___ The second segment of the sun is called the photosphere. It is the surface and it is much cooler than the solar core.

___ The third segment of the sun is its atmosphere, which is called the corona. We cannot see it from Earth. This is because it is not solid. It is made of different gases.

___ The sun will change and eventually die. It does not have enough energy to survive forever.

Note-taking

D. Complete the summary notes by filling in the blanks.

Topic:	The sun
Introduction:	Is a _____. Is a _____ circle of burning _____. Has three main _____.
First Segment:	Solar _____ • Deep _____ • Extremely _____
Second Segment:	_____ • Called photosphere • _____ than core
Third Segment:	Atmosphere • Called _____ • Can't see it from _____
Conclusion:	Will change and _____ die. Does not have enough _____ to _____.

E. Choose the correct answers.

Directions: An introductory sentence for a brief summary of the passage is provided below. Complete the summary by selecting the THREE answer choices that express the most important ideas in the passage. Some sentences do not belong in the summary because they express ideas that are not presented in the passage or are minor ideas in the passage.

1. The sun is a star with three main parts.

Answer Choices

- (A) The surface is called the photosphere.
- (B) The solar core is inside the sun.
- (C) The corona is the solid part of the sun.
- (D) The core is the coolest part of the sun.
- (E) The sun's corona is its atmosphere.

2. The sun will not last forever.

Answer Choices

- (A) The sun is made up of burning gasses.
- (B) The solar core is on the surface of the sun.
- (C) The sun does not have enough energy to burn forever.
- (D) The sun is made up of three parts: the core, the surface, and the atmosphere.
- (E) The sun's corona will last forever.

TOEFL Vocabulary Practice

F. Fill in the blanks with the correct words.

segments

core

surface

eventually

survived

1. The pyramids in Egypt have _____ for thousands of years.
2. About 71% of the Earth's _____ is covered with water.
3. The _____ of a baseball is made of cork or rubber.
4. A telescope is made of several _____ that fit together.
5. _____ people will live in space.

Practice

A. Learn the words.

Key Vocabulary

total	complete
partial	incomplete
orbit	to move in a circular path around a larger object

TOEFL Vocabulary

astronomy	the study of space
block	to hide from view
entire	whole
outline	the outer edges of something; not the middle
event	things that happen

B. Read the passage and underline the key information.

Solar Eclipses

Solar eclipses are very interesting. They are often studied in astronomy. An eclipse happens when the sun is blocked by the moon. There are two kinds of solar eclipses. The first is a total eclipse. The second is a partial eclipse.

A total eclipse is when the entire sun is blocked by the moon. Sometimes, as the moon orbits the Earth, it passes between the Earth and the sun. This makes the sun look dark. All that can be seen is an outline.

A partial eclipse is when only part of the sun can be seen. This happens when only part of the moon is between the Earth and the sun.

Most people think that an eclipse is an interesting event. However, it can be very dangerous to look at. ■ **1)** The sun is very bright. ■ **2)** It can damage the eyes. ■ **3)** Even looking at a total eclipse is dangerous. ■ **4)**

C. Choose the correct answers.

1. Look at the four squares (■) that indicate where the following sentence could be added to the passage.

That's why you need special glasses to view an eclipse.

Where would the sentence best fit?

- (A) Square 1 (B) Square 2
(C) Square 3 (D) Square 4

2. **Directions:** An introductory sentence for a brief summary of the passage is provided below. Complete the summary by selecting the **THREE** answer choices that express the most important ideas in the passage. Some sentences do not belong in the summary because they express ideas that are not presented in the passage or are minor ideas in the passage.

A solar eclipse occurs when the moon passes between the Earth and the sun.

Answer Choices

- (A) Eclipses are very common.
(B) A partial eclipse only blocks part of the sun.
(C) A total eclipse occurs when the moon blocks the entire sun.
(D) Partial eclipses look like a shadow on the surface of the sun.
(E) Eclipses can cause eye damage if looked at.

TOEFL Vocabulary Practice

D. Fill in the blanks with the correct words.

blocked events astronomy entire outline

- Some weather _____, such as strong tornados, can be very dangerous.
- When drawing a person, most people start with an _____.
- _____ is the study of the stars, planets, and universe.
- From space, astronauts can take pictures of the _____ Earth.
- When there are many clouds, the view of the sun is _____.

Read the passage.

Meteors

Meteors are pieces of rock in space. They float through space in groups. These groups are called meteor streams. Eventually, they enter Earth's atmosphere. This causes a special event. In astronomy, it is known as a meteor shower.

Meteor showers happen a lot. The Earth orbits the sun. As it does, it runs into many meteor streams. Scientists have found many of these meteor streams. They know of thirteen big streams that cause showers. Every year the Earth passes through the same meteor streams. Therefore, scientists can guess when the next one will happen. They know that meteor showers will happen each year at the same time. Sometimes many meteors enter the Earth's atmosphere at the same time. This is called a meteor storm.

■ 1) Meteors enter the Earth's atmosphere at high speeds. ■ 2) Meteors are usually small. ■ 3) Because they are so small, many of them burn up before they enter the atmosphere. ■ 4) The burning meteors make trails of fire. These can be seen from Earth. Many people call these falling stars. Very few ever make it inside the Earth's atmosphere.

Sometimes, a few meteors do make it through the atmosphere. When they do, they are called meteorites. However, the entire meteor will not survive. Only the segment that was not burnt when it entered the atmosphere will survive. When these hit the surface of the Earth, they can start fires or hit things, like cars.

Choose the correct answers.

1. The word orbits in the passage means
 - (A) blocks the light
 - (B) passes up
 - (C) moves away from
 - (D) goes around
2. According to paragraph 2, all of the following are true EXCEPT
 - (A) there are very few known meteor streams
 - (B) Earth passes through the same streams each year
 - (C) scientists can predict when meteor showers will occur
 - (D) a meteor storm involves more meteors than a meteor shower

3. Which of the following best expresses the essential information in the highlighted sentence? Incorrect answers change the meaning in important ways or leave out essential information.

Every year, the Earth passes through the same meteor streams.

- (A) All the meteor streams that Earth passes through are similar.
 - (B) The meteor streams pass through Earth's atmosphere the same year.
 - (C) All the meteors in the streams are passed through Earth's atmosphere.
 - (D) The same meteor streams are passed through by Earth every year.
4. Look at the four squares (■) that indicate where the following sentence could be added to the passage.

In fact, they can be as small as a grain of sand.

Where would the sentence best fit?

- (A) Square 1
 - (B) Square 2
 - (C) Square 3
 - (D) Square 4
5. Which of the following can be inferred about meteorites from paragraph 4?
- (A) Many meteors hit the Earth everyday.
 - (B) It is not common for meteorites to hit the Earth.
 - (C) There are many more meteors than meteorites.
 - (D) Meteorites are very big.
6. **Directions:** An introductory sentence for a brief summary of the passage is provided below. Complete the summary by selecting the THREE answer choices that express the most important ideas in the passage. Some sentences do not belong in the summary because they express ideas that are not presented in the passage or are minor ideas in the passage.

Meteor showers are meteors entering the Earth's atmosphere.

Answer Choices

- (A) Meteor showers are caused by meteor streams.
- (B) Meteors are different from falling stars.
- (C) Meteors are the size of a grain of sand.
- (D) Meteors usually burn up when they hit the atmosphere.
- (E) Meteor showers can cause some damage to Earth's surface.

Check-up

Question Type Review

A. Choose the correct answer.

1. A summary question asks
 - (A) for another sentence to be placed into the passage
 - (B) about details or facts that are in the passage
 - (C) for the main ideas in the passage to be identified
 - (D) what a word or phrase refers to

Key Vocabulary Practice

B. Fill in the blanks with the correct words.

solar

inside

total

partial

orbit

atmosphere

1. The oxygen in Earth's _____ allows living things to breathe.
2. Many people get electricity for their home from _____ panels that are put on their roofs.
3. The Earth's _____ takes it through several meteor streams each year.
4. A _____ solar eclipse blocks only a portion of the sun.
5. It is very hot _____ the Earth's core.
6. Even a _____ eclipse can be dangerous to look at.