

Getting Ready to Read

A. Learn the words.

Key Vocabulary

print	to put words on to paper using a machine
copy	one of a number of books, newspaper, etc. that have been printed at the same time
list	a group of things arranged in a certain way

TOEFL Vocabulary

popular	well-liked
organize	to arrange
describe	to tell about
struggle	to fight
character	a person in a book or movie

B. Learn the question types.

TOEFL Question Types

Vocabulary

The word X in the passage is closest in meaning to . . .

In stating X, the author means that . . .

- This type of question asks for the meaning of a word or phrase in the context of how it is used in the passage.
- It is usually a word that is important to understanding part of the passage.

Reference

The word X in the passage refers to . . .

- This type of question asks for what a word or phrase is referring to.
- The word is often a pronoun.

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

1. Details on a famous bestseller
2. What the passage is about
3. Describes bestseller lists
4. Information on number of copies of bestsellers

Bestsellers

___ Every year, many books are printed. However, few become popular. When a book sells many copies, it is called a bestseller.

___ There are many bestseller lists. This is when books are organized by how many they have sold. The book that sells the most is first on the list.

___ There are many bestsellers. Some of the most famous are the Harry Potter books. These books describe a boy's struggle against bad people. This has made the Harry Potter character very well known.

___ Bestsellers sell a lot more copies than most books do. For example, one Harry Potter book has sold 107 million copies. It is one of the most popular books ever.

Note-taking

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

Topic: Bestsellers

Introduction: Many books are _____ but only a few become _____.

Bestsellers are _____ that sell a lot of _____.

Bestseller Lists: _____ by how many sold.

Sell the most = first on list.

Bestseller: Harry Potter is one of most _____ bestsellers.

- A boy's _____ against bad people
- _____ very well known

Copies: Sell more than most books.

Harry Potter sold _____ million.

- One of the most _____ ever

TOEFL Questions

E. Choose the correct answers.

1. The word *few* in the passage is closest in meaning to
(A) a lot (B) not many
2. The phrase *these books* in the passage refers to
(A) bestsellers (B) the Harry Potter books
3. The word *copies* in the passage is closest in meaning to
(A) a number of books (B) a number of customers
4. The word *It* in the passage refers to
(A) a Harry Potter book (B) people

TOEFL Vocabulary Practice

F. Fill in the blanks with the correct words.

characters

popular

organized

struggles

described

1. Animals are _____ according to the species they belong to.
2. The four _____ in the book *Little Women* are Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy.
3. A baby bird often _____ to break out of its shell.
4. Justin Timberlake is a very _____ American singer.
5. The writer Pliny the Younger _____ a famous volcano.

Practice

A. Learn the words.

Key Vocabulary

successful	having done something well; having become important, famous, or rich
trial	a meeting at a court that decides if someone is guilty of a crime
suspect	someone that the police think did a crime

TOEFL Vocabulary

publish	to print something that can be sold to people
issue	a point that many people think is important
treat	to act or behave in a particular way
crime	an action that breaks a country's law
literature	writing that is valued because of its excellence

B. Read the passage and underline the key information.

Harper Lee

Harper Lee wrote a very famous book called *To Kill a Mockingbird*. She became very well known because of her book. Of course, she worked very hard to become so successful.

Harper Lee worked on *To Kill a Mockingbird* for more than three years. It is the only book she published. She rewrote it many times. She wanted to make it very good.

Eventually, her book was published in 1960. The book looks at important issues. It deals mainly with how people treat each other. It is about the trial of a man who was a suspect in a very bad crime. He did not get a fair trial.

The book was very successful. It sold more than fifteen million copies. Harper Lee also won many important awards. In fact, she won the Pulitzer Prize. It is the highest award in literature. Many people still read her book today.

C. Choose the correct answers.

- The word it in the passage refers to
(A) the trial (B) the book
- The word published in the passage is closest in meaning to
(A) printed (B) bought
- 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.

***To Kill a Mockingbird* is a very famous book.**

Answer Choices

- It was written by Harper Lee.
- This book is studied in many schools.
- It took her three years to write.
- She won the Pulitzer Prize for it.
- The story takes place in the American South.

TOEFL Vocabulary Practice

D. Fill in the blanks with the correct words.

literature

published

treated

crimes

issue

- Romantic _____ was written between 1815 and 1848.
- A police officer's job is to stop people from doing _____.
- Dangerous animals should be _____ with caution.
- It is difficult for a writer to get his or her first book _____.
- These days, global warming is a very important _____.

Read the passage.

Sherlock Holmes

Detective books are very popular. In these books, a detective solves a crime. There are often a lot of suspects. However, only one person is the criminal. The detective has to catch the criminal. He or she tries to find clues. The clues help the detective catch the criminal. One of the most well-known detectives in literature is Sherlock Holmes.

Most detective books have a main character like Holmes. The story usually develops around this person. This is because he or she is interesting. ■ 1) Holmes knows how criminals think. ■ 2) He is very good at catching them. ■ 3) He does this by looking at clues. ■ 4) A lot of the main characters in detective books are like Holmes.

Also, most detective books have a surprise at the end. The Sherlock Holmes books always surprise readers. Many readers like to guess the end to a story. It makes them feel smart. However, most readers struggle with the Sherlock Holmes stories. They guess the wrong suspect. Sherlock Holmes is the only one who can figure out the crime each time. He is very smart. This is what makes these books so famous.

Other detective books also use surprise endings. However, the Holmes books were first. They were first published in 1887. This is why many people think that these books are the best. They are old, but they are still interesting.

Choose the correct answers.

- Which of the following is NOT true of detective fiction?
 - There is more than one suspect in the crime.
 - The detective discovers important information.
 - There are multiple people who did the crime.
 - The detective finds out who is guilty of the crime.

- The word develops in the passage is closest in meaning to
 - ends
 - looks
 - grows
 - sells

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

Then he decides who did the crime.

Where would the sentence best fit?

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

Sherlock Holmes is the only one who can figure out the crime each time.

- (A) Only Sherlock Holmes knows who did the crime every time.
(B) The criminal was the only one who knew who Sherlock Holmes was.
(C) The person who committed the crime knew Sherlock Holmes.
(D) Sherlock Holmes committed the crime each time.
5. Which of the following can be inferred about the Sherlock Holmes books?
- (A) The Sherlock Holmes stories influenced many detective fiction books.
(B) The surprise ending surprised even the detectives in the books.
(C) Most people were not impressed by the use of surprise endings.
(D) Detective fiction was later very different from the Sherlock Holmes books.
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.

Detective fiction is a certain type of story.

Answer choices

- (A) It involves crimes that are solved by detectives.
(B) All detective books have Sherlock Holmes in them.
(C) Sherlock Holmes books are still interesting.
(D) The most famous detective is Sherlock Holmes.
(E) Sherlock Holmes books are thought to be the best detective books because the endings are surprising.

Check-up

Question Type Review

A. Choose the correct answers.

1. A *vocabulary* question asks
 - (A) about details or facts are in the passage
 - (B) for a sentence in the passage to be restated, summarized, or simplified
 - (C) what a word or phrase refers to
 - (D) what a word or phrase means
2. A *reference* questions asks
 - (A) for the main ideas in the passage to be identified
 - (B) what a word or phrase refers to
 - (C) what can be implied from the passage
 - (D) what a word or phrase means

Key Vocabulary Practice

B. Fill in the blanks with the correct words.

successful trial suspect print list copy

1. When the police catch a _____, they usually take him or her to jail.
2. The outcome of a _____ is decided by a jury.
3. Most people only buy one _____ of a book.
4. Bill Gates is a very _____ businessman.
5. People who have a computer and a printer can _____ their own files.
6. Most books never get on a bestseller _____.