

Linguaskill Reading, practice with answers

22 questions with the six task types of the reading module and, at the end, the answers explained. Cover the answers until you finish. This is our own practice material, not a Cambridge test.

Read and select

Read the notice and choose the sentence that means the same.

1. STAFF NOTICE

The car park will be closed on Saturday for resurfacing. Please use the street parking behind the building.

- A The car park is closed until further notice.
- B Street parking is only for visitors on Saturday.
- C You cannot park in the car park on Saturday.

2. Hi Marta,

I have looked at the figures you sent. Before I sign anything off, I would like Ana to run through them once more.

- A He has approved the figures.
- B He wants Ana to check the figures before approving them.
- C He thinks the figures Ana sent are wrong.

3. The proposal is, at best, a partial answer to a problem the board has been reluctant to name.

- A The proposal solves the problem completely.
- B The writer thinks the proposal falls short and the board avoids the issue.
- C The board has openly discussed the problem.

4. Hi Tom,

The delivery is running late. It should arrive on Thursday instead of Tuesday. Sorry for the trouble.

- A The delivery has been cancelled.
- B The delivery arrived on Tuesday as planned.
- C The delivery will come two days later than planned.

5. For all its confidence, the strategy rests on an assumption the authors never quite bring themselves to state.

- A The authors state their assumptions with great confidence.
- B The strategy has no assumptions behind it.
- C The strategy depends on something the authors avoid saying openly.

Gap fill with options

Choose the word that completes the sentence.

6. I have been working here ___ 2019, and I still enjoy it.
- A since
 - B for
 - C from
 - D during
7. The report was ___ detailed that most people only read the summary.
- A very
 - B too
 - C so
 - D such
8. Had the deadline been clearer, we ___ the delay altogether.
- A had avoided
 - B would avoid
 - C would have avoided
 - D will avoid
9. If it ___ tomorrow, we will move the meeting indoors.
- A would rain
 - B rains
 - C will rain
 - D rained
10. No sooner ___ the results published than the first complaints arrived.
- A did they
 - B they did
 - C had they
 - D they had

Open gap fill

Type the missing word, with no options, as in the real test.

11. She was offered the job ___ spite of her lack of experience.

Write the word: _____

12. Far ___ solving the shortage, the new rules made it considerably worse.

Write the word: _____

13. She is very good ___ explaining difficult ideas.

Write the word: _____

14. The scheme was abandoned, ___ much to the relief of the residents who had opposed it.

Write the word: _____

Missing sentence

Choose the sentence that fills the gap in the text.

15. Remote work saved the company a fortune in office costs. ___ Managers now spend a whole day a week just keeping people aligned.

- A It has not been free of problems, though.
- B Staff were delighted with the change.
- C The savings were reinvested in new offices.

16. Critics called the design cold and impersonal. ___ Twenty years on, it is the most photographed building in the city.

- A Their verdict has not aged well.
- B The architect agreed with them.
- C The building was demolished soon after.

17. The new bus route opened in March. ___ Since then, journey times have dropped by a third.

- A The route was closed again in April.
- B Tickets are only sold online.
- C At first, hardly anyone used it.

18. For decades the canal was treated as an obstacle to be built over. ___ The stretch reopened last spring is now the most expensive address in the district.

- A That reading of it did not survive the property boom.
- B Engineers agreed it should be filled in completely.
- C The canal has never carried commercial traffic.

Matching texts

Four people are looking for a course. Read what Laura wants and choose the course that suits her.

19. LAURA: I work mornings, so I can only study after six. I want to speak more and I am not worried about exams.

- A. Exam preparation, Tuesdays 10:00—12:00.
- B. Conversation club, Wednesdays 19:00—20:30.
- C. Grammar intensive, weekends, with a final test.

- A C
- B B
- C A

20. CLIENT: We are a team of twelve. We need invoices in euros and someone we can call when something breaks, but we do not need a dedicated manager.

A. Starter: up to 5 users, email support, invoices in local currency.

B. Team: up to 20 users, phone support, invoices in any currency.

C. Enterprise: unlimited users, dedicated account manager.

A B

B A

C C

Extended reading

Read the text and choose the correct answer.

21. When the library moved to the old market hall, staff expected complaints. The building was colder, the shelves were further apart and the reading room had lost its view. What nobody predicted was the queue. Visits doubled within a year, and most newcomers said they had simply never noticed the old building, tucked behind the town hall.

Why did the number of visits increase?

A Because the new building was warmer and more comfortable.

B Because the library bought many new books.

C Because the new building was easier to notice.

22. The committee's report has been welcomed as a step forward, which tells you more about the state of the debate than about the report. Its central recommendation, that data be published quarterly, was already policy in two of the three regions studied. The remaining region, whose practices prompted the inquiry, is mentioned twice and never named.

What is the writer's view of the report?

A That its main recommendation is impossible to apply.

B That it adds little and avoids the real case.

C That it is a major improvement on current practice.

Answers

1. **C, You cannot park in the car park on Saturday.** Difficulty B1

The notice closes the car park on one specific day, Saturday. The second option closes it with no end date, and the third says something the notice does not say.

2. **B, He wants Ana to check the figures before approving them.** Difficulty B2

He says that before signing anything off he wants Ana to go through the figures. He has not approved anything yet, he does not say they are wrong, and Ana did not send them.

3. **B, The writer thinks the proposal falls short and the board avoids the issue.** Difficulty C1

«At best» plays down what comes next, and «reluctant to name» says the board avoids naming it. Both ideas are critical, not neutral.

4. **C, The delivery will come two days later than planned.** Difficulty B1

Tuesday to Thursday is two days. Nothing is cancelled and it did not arrive on time.

5. **C, The strategy depends on something the authors avoid saying openly.** Difficulty C2

«For all its confidence» grants something only to contradict it, and «never quite bring themselves to state» says they do not quite say it. The other two read the exact opposite.

6. **A, since** Difficulty B1

With a specific starting point in time and the present perfect continuous, you use «since». «For» needs a length of time, like «for five years».

7. **C, so** Difficulty B2

The structure is «so + adjective + that». «Such» would need a noun, «such a detailed report that...».

8. **C, would have avoided** Difficulty C1

It is a third conditional with inversion, «Had...», so the other half uses «would have» plus the past participle.

9. **B, rains** Difficulty B1

In the first conditional, the «if» part is in the present even when it talks about the future.

10. **C, had they** Difficulty C1

After «no sooner» at the start of the sentence there is inversion, so the auxiliary goes before the subject.

11. **in** Difficulty B2

The fixed expression is «in spite of». No other preposition works.

12. **from** Difficulty C2

The pattern is «far from + -ing», which denies what comes next. The other three do not make this structure.

13. **at** Difficulty B1

The fixed combination is «good at» followed by the -ing form. The other prepositions do not go with this adjective.

14. **very** Difficulty C2

The fixed phrase is «very much to the relief of». The other three do not go with «much» in this structure.

15. **A, It has not been free of problems, though.** Difficulty B2

What comes next is a problem, so the gap has to turn from the savings to the drawback. The other two do not lead into what follows.

16. **A, Their verdict has not aged well.** Difficulty C1

The text contrasts the criticism back then with the success now, so the gap has to announce that turn. The other two break it.

17. **C, At first, hardly anyone used it.** Difficulty B1

«Since then» needs something to have happened before it. The second option contradicts what follows and the third does not fit the thread.

18. **A, That reading of it did not survive the property boom.** Difficulty C2

The text goes from «it was an obstacle» to «it is the most expensive address in the district», so the gap has to say that view changed. The other two break the turn.

19. **B, B** Difficulty B1

Laura can only study after six and wants to speak, with no exam. Only the conversation club does both.

20. **A, B** Difficulty B2

Twelve people do not fit in the five-user plan, and they rule out the dedicated manager of the third. The second covers phone support and currency.

21. **C, Because the new building was easier to notice.** Difficulty B2

The text says the new visitors had never noticed the old building, hidden behind the town hall. It says the opposite about comfort and nothing about books.

22. **B, That it adds little and avoids the real case.** Difficulty C1

It says the main recommendation was already practice in two of the three regions and that the third, the problem one, is never named. It is a criticism, not praise.