

Reading Comprehension 1

TASK True / False / Justification

Questa nuova tipologia propone agli studenti un testo rispetto al quale si formulano affermazioni che possono essere vere (true) o false (false). Dopo aver deciso se tali affermazioni siano vere o false si richiede agli studenti di giustificarne la scelta (justification).

La justification deve essere fornita riportando le prime quattro parole della frase che contiene l'idea oggetto della domanda. Attenzione! Se non è presente la giustificazione la risposta è da considerarsi errata.

Read the text below and decide whether the statements (1-8) are true (T) or false (F). Then identify the sentence in the text which supports your decision and write the first four words of this sentence in the space provided. The first one (0) has been done for you.

Do dogs see what's happening on TV?

We tend to say that dogs can't see what is going on when they watch television. But is that true? A recent study showed dogs can perceive images on television similarly to the way we do, and they are intelligent enough to recognise onscreen images of animals as they would in real life. And this is particularly true with modern TVs.

- 5 “With modern TVs dogs can perceive the pictures as film, just like we do,” Lionel Jameson, an associate professor, specialist in animal vision, at the Welsh School of Veterinary Science says.

There are, however, some differences between ourselves and man's best friend. For one, dogs' eyes register images more quickly than ours. “So older television sets, which show fewer frames per second than modern televisions, would appear to a dog to be flickering like an old movie”, added

- 10 professor Jameson. “We need about 16 to 20 images a second to perceive what we see as continuous film, whereas dogs need about 70 images per second”.

That also means that with modern TV sets, dogs have become potential television viewers. This has not gone unrecognised in the USA where TV producers have started special TV channels for dogs.

- 15 How dogs watch TV is very different to the way humans do, however. Dogs often approach the screen to get a closer look, and walk repeatedly between their owner and the television. They are essentially restless, interactive viewers.

Nevertheless, while dogs can now see what's happening on TV, they still don't see the same as we do. Dogs have dichromatic vision, i.e. they see a range of two primary colours, yellow and blue.

- 20 Human vision is trichromatic, so we see the full range of colours. “Dogs see colours, but not the same colours we see,” says professor Jameson.

Dogs, unlike humans, prefer to glance at the TV rather than focus on it. Researchers have found that even with media specifically designed for dogs, they will still spend the majority of their time watching nothing at all.

- 25 Beyond biology, how dogs react to TV - whether it's running around, barking, or just ignoring it - may come down to personality or breed. This is speculated to be influenced by what their owner watches, with dogs following their human's communication signals, such as gestures and head turns.

(Adapted from: <https://sciencenorway.no/animal-perception-dogs-forskningno/do-dogs-see-whats-happening-on-tv/1380478> and <http://theconversation.com/heres-what-dogs-see-when-they-watch-television-65000>)

TIPS AND STRATEGIES

Read each statement to understand what they mean as a whole. Do not

- concentrate on single words
- look for words that exactly match those in the statements. You had better look for synonyms.

Remember that you are **matching meaning, not words**.

Statements

- 0 Dogs see TV just as well as they see the world in general.
- 1 Modern TV sets allow dogs to see things better than before.
- 2 Dogs' eyes are not very sensitive to movement.
- 3 In the US dogs can now follow special canine programmes.
- 4 Dogs don't usually sit still when watching TV.
- 5 What dogs can see on the screen is different to humans.
- 6 Dogs see colour within two spectrums of light.
- 7 Dogs have long, intense interactions with TV.
- 8 A dog's response to TV may be influenced by its owner's behaviour.

[T] or [F] First four words

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 0 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> T | <i>A recent study showed</i> |
| 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| 7 | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| 8 | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

Reading Comprehension 2

TASK True / False / Justification

Read the text below and decide whether the statements (1-7) are true (T) or false (F). Then identify the sentence in the text which supports your decision and write the first four words of this sentence in the space provided. The first one (0) has been done for you.

THE ORIGINS OF Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day may be associated with romance, but the origin of the holiday isn't romantic.

5 The ancient Roman calendar included a mid-February holiday, called Lupercalia, which celebrated fertility. It is said to have included a ritual in which men and women were paired off by choosing names from a jar. In Ancient Greece, people observed a mid-winter celebration for the marriage of Zeus Hera. Some historians wonder if these traditions may have influenced the way we now celebrate February 14.

10 In the Catholic religion Saint Valentine's Day intends to commemorate martyred saints named Valentine. There are different legends celebrating three different saints called Valentine or Valentinus and not much is known about the real history of the Saint Valentines on whom the holiday is based. One legend says that Saint Valentine refused to convert to paganism and was executed by Roman Emperor Claudius II. 15 Prior to his death, he sent the first "valentine" greeting to a young girl - possibly his jailor's daughter - who visited him during his confinement. It is alleged that he wrote her a letter signed "From your Valentine," an expression that is still in use today. Another legend says a bishop called Saint Valentine of Terni is the true namesake of the holiday; this Saint 20 Valentine was also executed. But according to others Saint Valentine was a Roman priest. He was known to perform weddings for soldiers forbidden to marry, because of an edict made by Emperor Claudius which decreed married soldiers did not make good warriors and thus young men could not marry. This Saint Valentine wore a ring with a 25 Cupid on it that helped soldiers recognise him. And, in a precursor to greeting cards, he handed out paper hearts to remind Christians of their love for God. Because of this legend, St. Valentine became known as the patron saint of love. The Saint Valentine prayer asks Saint Valentine to connect lovers together, so that two become one.

30 But what truly solidified the connection between Saint Valentine and love was a poem by Geoffrey Chaucer in 1381, which historians consider the origin of the "modern" celebration of Valentine's Day, where we celebrate our romantic partnership with another person. He wrote in his Parlement of Foules: "For this was on seynt Volantynys day. Whan euery 35 bryd comyth there to chese his make."

It seems that, in Chaucer's day, English birds paired off to produce eggs in February. Soon, European nobility began sending love notes during bird-mating season. For example, the French Duke of Orléans, who spent some years as a prisoner in the Tower of London, wrote to his

40 wife in February 1415 that he was “already sick of love” (by which he meant lovesick.) And he called her his “very gentle Valentine”. English audiences embraced the idea of February mating.

By the end of the 15th century, the word “valentine” was being used to describe a lover in poems and songs, and in the 18th century, a book

45 called *The Young Man’s Valentine Writer* was published in England. By mid-1900 ready-made cards began to be used as a way to express emotions in a time when direct expression of one’s feelings was discouraged. Cheaper postage rates also contributed to an increase in the popularity of sending Valentine’s Day greetings. Valentine’s Day, as we

50 know it, was born. Over the years (and centuries), Valentine’s Day has been an ancient ritual day, a religious celebration, and a commercial holiday. All that implies that the meaning of Valentine’s Day is truly whatever you want it to be: you can skip the celebrations completely, buy yourself some chocolate

55 or flowers, or express your love and appreciation for the people in your life, whether they’re co-workers, romantic partners, friends, or family members.

(Adapted from: <https://www.realsimple.com/holidays-entertaining/holidays/valentines-day/history-of-valentines-day> and <https://www.history.com/topics/valentines-day/history-of-valentines-day-2>)

Statements

- 0 St. Valentine’s Day contains vestiges of ancient Roman tradition.
- 1 The Catholic Church recognises three different saints named Valentine.
- 2 The expression “From your Valentine” was invented by St Valentine from Terni.
- 3 Marriage for very young men was encouraged under Emperor Claudius.
- 4 St. Valentine’s Day became a day of romantic celebration thanks to Chaucer.
- 5 The oldest known valentine still in existence today was a poem written by Chaucer.
- 6 “Valentines” were small tokens of affection or handwritten notes.
- 7 The use of Valentine’s Day Greetings is at the start of the commercial holiday.

[T] or [F] First four words

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|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 0 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <i>The ancient Roman calendar</i> |
| 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| 7 | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

Reading Comprehension 3

TASK True / False / Justification

Read the text below and decide whether the statements (1-7) are True (T) or False (F). Then write the first four words of the sentence which supports your decision in the space provided.

Soil erosion

Soil erosion is a gradual process of movement and transport of the upper layer of soil (topsoil) by different agents – particularly water, wind, and mass movement – causing its deterioration in the long term. It is globally threatening food security and the functioning of ecosystems. It has an adverse effect on water and air and, of course, on the soil itself.

- 5 As things stand, soil is being lost at a significantly greater rate than it is being created. As various industries simply cannot function without soil, many governments are trying to combat the erosion in their countries.

Soil erosion has a whole host of causes, many of which are still not well understood.

- 10 A Swiss group of scientists and researchers have recently employed satellite imagery and numerous other data sources to investigate the causes of soil erosion around the world. After creating an erosion map of the world, the researchers also tried to study the potential natural erosion rate. This enabled them to see how great the difference between current and natural erosion is.

- 15 It was through this approach that it was possible to identify the “country effect” as a cause of soil erosion. This country effect is most visible along political borders as these areas offer the best basis for comparing observations. “The rate at which soils erode strongly depends on which side of a border, and accordingly, in which country the soil lies,” says one of the lead authors.

- 20 To illustrate their approach, the researchers use the island of Hispaniola, home to Haiti and the Dominican Republic, as an example. In its natural form, Hispaniola would be covered



with dense tropical forest and natural erosion would be very low because this vegetation would protect the soil from rain. In reality, however, the researchers found that along the border, Haiti's soils lose 50 tonnes more per year and per hectare than those of the Dominican Republic. If Hispaniola had not been subject to human intervention and were still
 25 in its natural state, there would be no sharp increase in soil erosion along the border. But the presence of such a rise points to political entities, not natural borders. The differential erosion along the border of the two Caribbean states is extremely high: 30 times higher than the global average, which - according to the researchers' calculations - stands at 1.4 tonnes per year and hectare of arable land.

30 A country's strongest influence on soil erosion is its agriculture and the way that farmers cultivate the soil there. The income level in a particular country, however, has no influence.

The study also shows that there is clear potential for countries to improve their soil protection and how they go about it. In the past, soil erosion had been seen as a predominantly local problem. Now we know that larger-scale factors also strongly influence
 35 erosion in a given country.

In addition, the Swiss researchers' method can be used to determine whether measures that countries take to improve soil protection are effective or not. One such measure, for example, is introducing economic incentives to encourage greater soil cover.

(adapted from <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/12/191203114518.htm>)

Statements

- 0 Soil erosion is a naturally occurring process.
- 1 Rates of soil erosion have been exceeding those of new soil formation.
- 2 It is now clear why soil erosion occurs and under what circumstances.
- 3 Remote sensing has allowed modelling of soil erosion.
- 4 Countries have no important, causal effect on their soil erosion.
- 5 Rates of soil erosion are higher in Haiti than in the Dominican Republic.
- 6 The country effect is seldom associated with differences in income.
- 7 The research shows the importance of local factors in soil erosion.

[T] or [F] First four words

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 0 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Soil erosion is a |
| 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| 7 | <input type="checkbox"/> | |