About College Board

College Board is a mission-driven not-for-profit organization that connects students to college success and opportunity. Founded in 1900, College Board was created to expand access to higher education. Today, the membership association is made up of over 6,000 of the world’s leading educational institutions and is dedicated to promoting excellence and equity in education. Each year, College Board helps more than seven million students prepare for a successful transition to college through programs and services in college readiness and college success—including the SAT®, the Advanced Placement® Program, and BigFuture™. The organization also serves the education community through research and advocacy on behalf of students, educators, and schools. For further information, visit collegeboard.org.
ESL Reading Skills

The ESL Reading Skills Test measures your ability to read passages written in English. Specifically, it assesses your comprehension of short passages of 50 or fewer words and moderate-length passages of 51 to 90 words. Passages cover a range of contexts: science, history/social science, arts/humanities, narratives, psychology/human relations, and practical situations (the last typically dealing with familiar, everyday contexts). Approximately half of this test contains straightforward comprehension questions, and the remaining questions measure your ability to infer information not directly stated in a passage. Specific knowledge and skills assessed on this test are:

- Literal comprehension
  - Paraphrasing
  - Locating information
  - Vocabulary on a phrase level
  - Pronoun reference

- Inference
  - Main idea
  - Fact versus opinion
  - Cause and effect logic
  - Identifying irrelevant information
  - Identifying author’s point of view
  - Applying author’s logic to another situation
Sample Questions
Read the information below, then choose the best answer.

Television has been introduced to almost every country in the world, reaching a large number of viewers on every continent. About 600 million people saw the first person walk on the moon, and a billion people watched the twentieth Olympic Games. Television has in many ways promoted understanding and cooperation among people. It does this by showing educational and cultural programs.

1. From this passage, a reader can most reasonably conclude that the author believes that
   A. people spend too much time watching television
   B. not every country needs to have television
   C. television can unify people from around the world
   D. television is as important as schools

2. Which of the following is the main idea of the passage?
   A. Mental pictures help many to learn.
   B. Some people prefer lists to making mental pictures.
   C. To learn well you need to be comfortable.
   D. Different individuals have different ways of acquiring information.

3. Which of the following is implied in the passage above?
   A. Copper is a good conductor of heat.
   B. Wood and copper conduct heat equally.
   C. Wood is an excellent conductor of heat.
   D. Matches should be made of copper.

4. According to the passage, snakes are
   A. uncommon pets
   B. likely to be found in a household with dogs
   C. found only in zoos
   D. not allowed in people’s homes

5. The passage indicates that Chavez changed lives by
   A. helping to end the farmworkers’ strikes
   B. fighting for the rights of farm owners
   C. working on the farms every day
   D. improving the conditions for farmworkers

6. What is the main idea of the passage?
   A. *Peanuts* was the world’s most widely read comic strip.
   B. Schulz was a very famous cartoonist.
   C. Schulz turned the pain of his youth into success as an adult.
   D. The comic strip *Peanuts* featured children as its only characters.
Money has been used for thousands of years in nearly every culture as a means of exchange. However, today, the use of cash is becoming less and less common in modern societies all over the world. Every year, a higher percentage of purchases are made online, and even in stores customers are now using credit cards more often than cash. Many people today do all their banking on the internet rather than going to the bank in person.

7. The author of the passage probably assumes that
A. cash will become virtually obsolete in the near future
B. using cash will become popular again
C. paying with credit cards all the time is dangerous
D. societies that do business online will struggle

8. According to the passage, it is wrong to
A. use first aid on an accident victim without medical training
B. attempt to help an accident victim without permission
C. help a victim before an ambulance arrives
D. call for an ambulance instead of helping the victim

9. According to the passage, Dr. Ochoa is the first
A. Hispanic person to travel into space
B. inventor to travel into space
C. woman to travel into space
D. Hispanic woman to travel into space

10. From this passage a reader can conclude that
A. owning a cat requires less work than owning a dog
B. people who are away from home during the day should not own a cat
C. people who like to play with their pets should own a cat
D. owning a cat is more responsibility than owning a dog
ESL Sentence Meaning

The ESL Sentence Meaning Test measures your ability to understand the meaning of sentences written in English. Specifically, it assesses your understanding of words and phrases in one- or two-sentence contexts. Sentences are drawn from a range of contexts: science, history/social studies, arts/humanities, psychology/human relations, and practical situations (the last typically dealing with familiar, everyday contexts). Some questions ask you to select the appropriate word or phrase from given options to fill in a blank. Others may test your ability to understand the main idea or a detail presented in a short text made up of one or two sentences. Specific content areas assessed on this test are:

- Particles, phrasal verbs, and prepositions
- Adverbs, adjectives, connectives, and sequences
- Basic nouns and verbs
- Common idioms
**Sample Questions**

**Directions for questions 1–8**

*Choose the word or phrase that, when inserted in the blank space, makes the sentence meaningful and correct.*

1. Shikibu Murasaki, who wrote almost a thousand years ago, was one of the world's __________ novelists.
   A. most early
   B. too early
   C. more early
   D. earliest

2. The Chang children __________ their parents by making sandwiches for the whole family.
   A. helped out
   B. helped with
   C. helps for
   D. helps to

3. As demonstrated by his last album, which was released after his death, Ibrahim Ferrer __________ one of the most beautiful voices in Latin music.
   A. had
   B. have
   C. have had
   D. having

4. After we saw the play, we had different opinions __________ Vincent's performance.
   A. about
   B. at
   C. for
   D. to

5. Having recorded many of the most beloved songs of the 1940s, jazz singer Ella Fitzgerald __________ one of the most prominent musical performers of her time.
   A. had been
   B. has been
   C. was
   D. will be

6. As we drove through the darkness, we saw another car coming __________ the bend in the road.
   A. through
   B. under
   C. over
   D. around

7. Sonia is so determined and stubborn that she never __________ until she gets exactly what she wants.
   A. gives up
   B. gives out
   C. gave in
   D. gave away

8. At only 43, John F. Kennedy was the __________ American president ever to be elected.
   A. most young
   B. more young
   C. youngest
   D. younger

**Directions for questions 9–15**

*Read the sentence below, then choose the best answer to the question.*

9. Elena found a tomato that was much bigger than all the others in the garden.
   How did the tomato compare to the others in the garden?
   A. It was the smallest.
   B. It was not very large.
   C. It was larger than some.
   D. It was the largest.

10. When the popular entertainer canceled her appearance, the Latin American festival was postponed indefinitely.
    When will the festival likely take place?
    A. Tonight
    B. Tomorrow
    C. Next week
    D. Many weeks later

11. Jasmine is never late to meet her friends and sometimes arrives a few minutes early.
    Which best describes Jasmine?
    A. Lonely
    B. Punctual
    C. Talkative
    D. Tardy

12. Bram Stoker is best known for his classic horror novel *Dracula*, which was published in 1897.
    What did Bram Stoker do?
    A. He was a doctor.
    B. He was a merchant.
    C. He was a writer.
    D. He was an engineer.
13. Exhausted from her transatlantic flight, Judy could not stay up past 9 p.m.
What did Judy do at 9 p.m.?
A. Leave work
B. Come home from the airport
C. Get on an airplane
D. Go to bed

14. Eliot sleeps late whenever he can, leaves work early, and never does anything unless he absolutely has to.
Which best describes Eliot?
A. Boring
B. Lazy
C. Selfish
D. Tired

15. Juanita rushed to her dance class and burst through the door in the nick of time.
When Juanita got to her dance class, she was
A. very early
B. very late
C. nearly late
D. a little late
ESL Language Use

The ESL Language Use Test measures your ability to identify and apply learned conventions of standard written English. Questions on the test are presented in two formats: filling in the blank with a word or phrase and choosing a sentence that best combines two separate sentences. Specific grammatical conventions assessed are:

- Nouns, pronouns, and pronoun case structure
- Sentence structure, including prepositions, parallelism, and sentence fragments/run-ons
- Subject-verb agreement
- Adjectives/adverbs, including modifiers and comparatives
- Verbs, including verb tenses and regular and irregular verb forms
- Subordination/coordination
Sample Questions
Directions for questions 1–10

Each sentence has a blank space. Choose the word or phrase that makes a grammatically correct sentence.

1. __________ washing his sweater, Jacob hung it up to dry.
   A. After
   B. Before
   C. By
   D. Until

2. Dr. O’Hara is certain that someday, people will __________ to Mars.
   A. travel
   B. travels
   C. traveling
   D. traveled

3. Water __________ at a temperature of zero degrees Celsius.
   A. having frozen
   B. freezing
   C. freeze
   D. freezes

4. __________ you get a new haircut?
   A. Have
   B. Does
   C. Are
   D. Did

5. Jacques Cousteau will be remembered for his inventions and for __________ to marine science.
   A. dedication
   B. his dedication
   C. being dedicated
   D. his being dedicated

6. The children, who were tired of traveling, kept asking, “When __________ we get to the hotel?”
   A. have
   B. will
   C. did
   D. are

7. Galileo is most famous __________ that Earth revolves around the Sun, rather than the other way around.
   A. for having discovered
   B. for discovery
   C. his discovery
   D. in discovering

8. Some people have difficulty understanding one another because they __________ differently.
   A. communicate
   B. communicated
   C. have communicated
   D. communicates

9. __________ you can speak more than one language, you have the opportunity to make more new friends.
   A. So
   B. Before
   C. When
   D. Though

10. Light __________ faster than sound, which is why you see lightning before you hear thunder.
    A. traveling
    B. travels
    C. having traveled
    D. will travel

Directions for questions 11–15

Read the two sentences below and choose the best way of combining them.

11. Lisa plays the piano. Her sister Kelly plays the piano too.
    A. Lisa and her sister Kelly plays the piano.
    B. Both Lisa and her sister Kelly play the piano.
    C. Lisa plays the piano, and Kelly plays the piano.
    D. Lisa and Kelly too play the piano.

12. Kazuko took her dog for a walk. They went to the park.
    A. Kazuko, going to the park, took her dog for a walk.
    B. Kazuko took her dog for a walk to the park.
    C. Kazuko took her dog for a walk because they went to the park.
    D. Kazuko and her dog went to the park, where she and the dog walked.

13. We knew it might get chilly at the football game. We brought along some extra blankets.
    A. We knew it might get chilly at the football game when we brought along some extra blankets.
    B. Bringing along some extra blankets, we knew it might get chilly at the football game.
    C. We brought along some extra blankets because we knew it might get chilly at the football game.
    D. It got chilly at the football game, and we brought along some extra blankets.
14. Juan loves to play baseball. His friend Miguel enjoys baseball too.
   A. Both Juan and his friend Miguel enjoy playing baseball.
   B. Juan and his friend Miguel enjoys playing baseball.
   C. Juan enjoys playing baseball and his friend Miguel too.
   D. Juan loves baseball and Miguel too enjoys baseball.

15. Wolves travel in packs. They are rarely spotted alone.
   A. Wolves are rarely spotted alone if they travel in packs.
   B. Because they travel in packs, wolves are rarely spotted alone.
   C. After traveling in packs, wolves are rarely spotted alone.
   D. Wolves are rarely spotted alone, although they travel in packs.
### Answer Key

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