

ENGLISH

University Entrance Exam

کنکور زبان انگلیسی

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Passage 3

Hints for reading practice (part 1)

Set aside time each day

Most of us can find 15 minutes or half an hour each day for some specific regular activity. It may be a free period or a regular wait, say in the queue for a bus or meal - even while eating breakfast. One famous surgeon always made it a rule to spend at least 15 minutes on general reading before he went to sleep each night. Whether he went to bed at 10 p.m. or 2.30 a.m. made no difference. Even if you cannot keep to this kind of discipline, it is a good idea to make sure you always have a general interest book in your pocket. Don't forget it should be a book which entertains you and the English must not be too difficult for you.

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Check your progress through pacing

Nearly all 'speed reading' courses have a 'pacing' element - some timing device which lets the student know how many words a minute he is reading. You can do this simply by looking at your watch every 5 or 10 minutes and noting down the page number you have reached. Check the average number of words per page for the particular book you are reading. How do you know when 5 minutes have passed on your watch if you are busy reading the book? Well, this is difficult at first. A friend can help by timing you over a set period, or you can read within hearing distance of a public clock which strikes the quarter hours. Pace yourself every three or four days, always with the same kind of easy, general interest book. You should soon notice your habitual w.p.m. rate creeping up.

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Check comprehension

Obviously there is little point in increasing your w.p.m. rate if you do not understand what you are reading. When you are consciously trying to increase your reading speed, stop after every chapter (if you are reading a novel) or every section or group of ten or twelve pages (if it is a textbook) and ask yourself a few questions about what you have been reading. If you find you have lost the thread of the story, or you cannot remember clearly the details of what was said, re-read the section or chapter.

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'Lightning speed' exercise

Try this from time to time. Take four or five pages of the general interest book you happen to be reading at the time. *Read them as fast as you possibly can.* Do not bother about whether you understand or not. Now go back and read them at what you feel to be your 'normal' w.p.m. rate, the rate at which you can comfortably understand. After a 'lightning speed' read through (probably around 600 w.p.m.) you will usually find that your 'normal' speed has increased - perhaps by as much as 50-100 w.p.m. This is the technique athletes use when they habitually run further in training than they will have to on the day of the big race.

Ideas

Select the answer which is most accurate according to the information given in the passage.

1 The passage recommends setting aside for reading practice

- a) two hours a day.
- b) one hour a day.
- c) 15 minutes or half an hour a day.
- d) three times a day before meals.

2 One famous surgeon always made it a rule to read

- a) for 15 minutes at 10 p.m. each night.
- b) at least 15 minutes at bedtime.
- c) at least 15 minutes at either 10 p.m. or 2.30 a.m.
- d) whenever he had a spare moment.

3 It is a good idea always to carry in your pocket

- a) a book you will never forget.
- b) a serious book.
- c) several books of various kinds.
- d) an easy and entertaining English book.

4 A 'pacing' device

- a) times a student's reading speed.
- b) is not included in most speed reading courses.
- c) is an aid to vocabulary learning.
- d) should be used whenever we read alone.

5 Looking at your watch every 5 or 10 minutes

- a) avoids the need for reading faster.
- b) is not the same as pacing.
- c) is not easy at first.
- d) helps you to remember the page number you were at last time.

6 The passage recommends pacing yourself

- a) every two days with different kinds of book.

- b) every three or four days with the same kind of book.
 c) every week with the same kind of book.
 d) as often as you read a book.
- 7 When you are reading a novel the passage advises you to pause to check the content
 a) every chapter.
 b) every hour.
 c) every three or four pages.
 d) after every page.
- 8 The purpose of pausing for thought every so often is to
 a) rest the eyes.
 b) make sure you have not missed any pages.
 c) make sure you really understand what you have read.
 d) prevent brain fatigue.
- 9 If you have lost the thread of a story you are reading, the passage recommends
 a) choosing an easier book.
 b) glancing back over the chapter you have just read.
 c) asking a friend to help you with the difficult words.
 d) learning the previous chapter by heart.
- 10 The purpose of the lightning speed exercise is to
 a) increase your normal speed by practising at a very high rate.
 b) get through the book in half the time so that you can go on to the next.
 c) help you understand more of the content of the book.
 d) enable you to win reading races against your friends.

Vocabulary

Find the following words in the passage and select the meaning you think is *most likely* to correspond among the choices given:

1 *hints* (title)

- a) tests
 b) suggestions
 c) obstacles
 d) rewards

3 *specific* (line 1)

- a) particular
 b) uninteresting
 c) specimen
 d) intellectual

2 *set aside* (sub-title)

- a) reject
 b) put beside
 c) push out of the way
 d) allocate

4 *keep to* (line 6)

- a) save
 b) obey
 c) protect
 d) pay for

- 5 *pacing* (sub-title)
a) hurrying
b) reading faster
c) checking w.p.m.
d) stepping carefully

- 6 *device* (line 11)
a) means
b) clamp
c) symbol
d) machine

- 7 *timing* (line 17)
a) co-ordinating
b) taking time with
c) checking the time taken by
d) estimating

- 8 *set* (line 17)
a) definite
b) collection
c) series
d) hardened

- 9 *consciously* (line 22)
a) awake
b) aware
c) purposefully
d) regularly

- 10 *thread* (line 26)
a) cotton
b) step
c) sequence
d) beginning

Similar or different?

Say whether or not the statement is similar in meaning to the sentence from the passage indicated by the line number in brackets.

- 1 It is good to keep a general interest book in your pocket rather than reading at night. (lines 3-6)
- 2 Most reading courses incorporate a pacing device which permits the student to assess his reading speed. (lines 10-11)
- 3 Someone can tell you when so many minutes have passed, or you can hear a clock which strikes every 15 minutes. (lines 16-18)
- 4 There is hardly any point in increasing your reading speed provided that you understand what you are reading. (lines 21-22)
- 5 Read them with all speed, irrespective of understanding. (Two sentences, lines 29-30)
- 6 Athletes use 'lightning speed' reading exercises when they are in training for a big race. (lines 35-36)

Answers:

Passage 3: Practical hints for reading practice (1)

Ideas: 1c, 2b, 3d, 4a, 5c, 6b, 7a, 8c, 9b, 10a

Vocabulary: 1b, 2d, 3a, 4b, 5c, 6a, 7c, 8a, 9c, 10c

Similar or different?: 1d, 2s, 3s, 4d, 5s, 6d

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