

UNDERSTAND THE BASIC TYPES OF DISTRACTORS.

Basic types of distractors for Part VI:

1. **Not mentioned**- refers to things or ideas commonly associated with the passage content but are not actually mentioned in the passage. The distractor answers the question plausibly, but it does not relate to the actual passage content.
2. **Repeated words**- uses a key word or phrase from the passage, but it is not true. The distractor answers the question plausibly but is incorrect.
3. **Incorrect paraphrase/misstatement**- uses specific language, facts, or ideas that are mentioned or implied in the passage, but it rephrases, paraphrases, and twists them so that they are not true. The distractor often contradicts or misstates the facts.
4. **Hybrid**- This is not actually a basic distractor type; it is a combination of two or more of the three basic types previously outlined.

Look at the Part VI single passage example again.

Questions 153-155 refer to the following article.

LOW CROP PRICES HURT FARMERS

Unusually low prices for crops are causing hardships for farmers in Canada. Together with a strong Canadian dollar and rising costs, this has led to large-scale losses on many Canadian farms. The Canadian government forecasts net farm income (NFI) this year at \$870 million, a significant decline from last year's \$1.8 billion NFI.

NFI for the province of Saskatchewan is again likely to be negative this year at an estimate of minus \$207 million, compared with minus \$77 million last year.

Manitoba, which is still recovering from floods earlier in the year, is also expected to fall behind expenses and is forecast to have an NFO deficit of \$195 million.

Alberta, with its large-scale cattle industry, is generating more income than provinces where farming is based on grains. This year's NFI is forecast at \$258 million.

Even at the current low prices, farmers in Saskatchewan and Manitoba are having a hard time selling their grains, due to this year's below-average-quality harvest.

Elsewhere, good returns on dairy, eggs, fruit, and poultry have boosted farm incomes.

READING COMPREHENSION

153. What is the expected for net farm income in Canada?

- (A) It will be much lower than the year before.
- (B) It will be about the same as the year before.
- (C) It will be higher than the original government forecasts.
- (D) It will be significantly lower than original government forecasts.

This is a Detail question. The correct answer is choice (A). Choice (B) mistates the information presented in the first paragraph. This is an example of an incorrect paraphrase/misstatement distractor. Choice (C) contradicts the information in the first paragraph. This is an example of an incorrect paraphrase/misstatement distractor. Choice (D) repeats the word significantly and government forecasts from the first paragraph, but it twists the facts. It also refers to an "original" forecasts that was not mentioned. This is an example of a hybrid distractor.

154. According to the article, which Canadian farm product is selling poorly?

- (A) Nuts
- (B) Fruit
- (C) Dairy
- (D) Grains

This is a Detail question. The correct answer is choice (D). Choice (A) is not mentioned in the message. This is an example of a not mentioned distractor. Choices (B) and (C) are both words mentioned in the passage, but they are incorrect. These are examples of repeated word distractors.

155. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a problem that Canadian farmers are facing?

- (A) Floods
- (B) Rising costs
- (C) Low cattle prices
- (D) Poor-quality crops

This is a detail question using the NOT format. The correct answer is choice (C). Choices (A), (B), and (D) are all mentioned as being problems for Canadian farmers. Notice that for each of the questions, all the distractor are plausible answers and tha tnone of the questions or answered choices are of any help in answering other questions.

KNOW HOW TO READ PASSAGES

1. Be an efficient reader. Reading every word of every passage is not reading efficiently. Efficient reading requires skimming and scanning.

1. Skim the Passage

Skimming – reading the passage quickly to understand the main points.

- 1.1 Begin at the top of the passage and read only the first few words of each sentence.
- 1.2 Look for and make note of word or phrases that are repeated throughout the passage – these are probably important.
- 1.3 Identify the main idea or main topic of the passage.
- 1.4 Focus on the question “What is this passage mainly about?”

Example from the previous passages:

Question : “What is the passage mainly about?”

Answer : Would be something like this: income from farming in Canada.

2. Read the Questions

- 2.1 Do not read the entire passage.
- 2.2 Your goal is only to answer the questions. The most efficient way to do this is to know what it is you are looking for before you read the passage in depth.
- 2.3 Read the question not the answer choices – so that you know what information you will need to find when you read the passage.

3. Answer Each Question

- 3.1 Read each question and predict the answer in your own words before reading the answer choices.
- 3.2 There are no trick questions on the TOEIC exam. All the information needed to answer the questions is presented in the passage.

4. Scan the Passage

Scanning is the process of looking for the key words and phrases you need to answer the questions.

- 4.1 Do not read every word in the passage. You have read the questions and know what information to look for.
- 4.2 Start at the top and let your eyes go back and forth across the page.
Look for key words and phrases as you make your way to the bottom of the passage.

READING COMPREHENSION

STRATEGY 5

EVALUATE THE ANSWER CHOICES; MARK THE ANSWER

1. After you have scanned the passage to find the information you need, you will need to evaluate the answer choices.
2. Find the answer choice that is the closest match to the answer you have been expecting and mark your answer sheet.

STRATEGY 6

ELIMINATE ANSWER CHOICES

1. Eliminate as many choices as you can. Remember, because one question and answer choice set will not help you answer another, do not look at answer choices from one question for clues to answer another question.

STRATEGY 7

MANAGE YOUR TIME

1. Check your answer sheet to make sure you have not missed any questions or marked your answer sheet incorrectly in any way. Check your work for Parts V and VI, as well. If you find yourself running out of time, mark your answer sheet with your wild-guess letter.
2. Do not leave any questions unanswered.

STRATEGY SUMMARY

1. Know the directions.
2. Understand the question types and how the questions are ordered.
3. Understand the basic types of distractors.
4. Know how to read passages.
5. Evaluate the answer choices and mark the answer if you know it.
6. Eliminate answer choices that are wrong and select the best match from what is left.
7. Consider tackling the shorter passages and vocabulary questions first.
8. Manage your time and be sure to answer every question.

READING COMPREHENSION PRACTICE SET

Questions 1-2 refer to the following weather forecast.

The weather forecast for Asia and Australia predicts warm temperature for the next few days in Beijing; thundershowers on Wednesday could lead to cooler weather Thursday.

Episodes of rain in Shanghai this week, some possibly heavy.

Typically warm and muggy this week in Hong Kong and Singapore.

Windy and cool with showers in Melbourne Wednesday and Thursday, while Brisbane has sunshine every day this week.

1. What is expected for Beijing on Wednesday?
 - (A) Rain
 - (B) Wind
 - (C) Unusual warmth
 - (D) Clear skies

2. Where is sunny weather predicted?
 - (A) Brisbane
 - (B) Jakarta
 - (C) Shanghai
 - (D) Taipei

Questions 3-4 refer to the following email message.

From : Carlota Fernandez<c_fernandez@gsystems.com>
To : Staff Mailing List<staff@gsystems.com>
Date : May 15th 2010 10:38:42 A.M.
Subject : Visit Proplan, Inc.

Dear All,

This is to remind you that two representatives from Proplan, Inc. will be here on Friday, May 20, from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. in the lounge. The Proplan representatives will be available to answer all questions regarding your health insurance policy, and to discuss how changes may affect you and your families. Please sign up for the 15-minute time slots. The sign-up sheets is in the lounge. I hope this is beneficial to you all.

Regards,

Carlota

3. Why will the Proplan representatives visit?
 - (A) To discuss health insurance
 - (B) To provide medical examinations
 - (C) To distribute health care policies
 - (D) To sign up participants

4. What should interested employees do?
 - (A) Talk to the benefits department.
 - (B) Read the attached information.
 - (C) Write down questions.
 - (D) Sign up for appointments.

READING COMPREHENSION PRACTICE SET

Questions 5-7 refer to the following letter.

Melissa Ketchem
1410 South Walnut Street
Bloomington, IN 47404

28 June 2010

Mr. Donald Baker
Personnel Director
The Asian Plaza Hotel
Tokyo, Japan

Dear Mr. Baker,

I am responding to your recent advertisement for a manager of programs and conventions on the hoteljobs.com website. Enclosed is my resume, which outlines the considerable experience I have in the hotel management field.

My current position as assistant manager at the International Castle Hotel deals almost exclusively with booking and coordinating conventions. This, combined with a certificate from the Hotel School in Lausanne, Switzerland, makes me confident that I would be an asset to your staff.

I very much appreciate being considered for this position, and I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely yours,

Melissa Ketchem

P.S. If you would like to speak with my current supervisor at the International Castle, please feel free to contact her without reservation.

5. What is Ms. Ketchem sending with this letter?
 - (A) A resume
 - (B) A writing sample
 - (C) A job description
 - (D) A reference letter

6. How did Ms. Ketchem learn about the position?
 - (A) From a friend
 - (B) From a website
 - (C) From a newspaper advertisement
 - (D) From Mr. Baker

7. Which task is part of Ms. Ketchem's current job?
 - (A) Handling conventions
 - (B) Supervising staff
 - (C) Coordinating food service
 - (D) Registering guests

READING COMPREHENSION PRACTICE SET

1. What is expected for Beijing on Wednesday? (Detail/What)
 - A. Rain **CORRECT**
 - B. Wind (Wind is predicted for Melbourne.)
 - C. Unusual warmth (This is not mentioned)
 - D. Clear skies (This is not mentioned)

2. Where is sunny weather predicted? (Detail/What)
 - A. Brisbane **CORRECT**
 - B. Jakarta (This is not mentioned)
 - C. Shanghai (This repeats the word Shanghai.)
 - D. Taipei (This is not mentioned.)

3. Why will the Proplan representatives visit? (Gist/Why)
 - A. To discuss health insurance **CORRECT**
 - B. To provide medical examinations (This plays on the health topic.)
 - C. To distribute health care policies (This repeats the words health care policy)
 - D. To sign up participants (This may be a possible reason, but it is not mentioned)

4. What should interested employees do? (Detail/What)
 - A. Talk to the benefits department. (No, the memo is from the benefits department.)
 - B. Read the attached information. (This is not mentioned)
 - C. Write down questions. (This plays on the words answer questions.)
 - D. Sign up for appointments **CORRECT**

5. What is Ms. Ketchem sending with this letter? (Detail/What)
 - A. A resume **CORRECT**
 - B. A writing sample (This is not mentioned)
 - C. A job description (This is not mentioned)
 - D. A reference letter (This is not mentioned)

6. How did Ms. Ketchem learn about the position? (Detail/What)
 - A. From a friend (This is not mentioned)
 - B. From a website **CORRECT**
 - C. From a newspaper advertisement (No, she saw the position advertised online.)
 - D. From Mr. Baker. (This repeats the words Mr. Baker.)

7. Which task is part of Ms. Ketchem's current job? (Detail/What)
 - A. Handling conventions **CORRECT**
 - B. Supervising staff (This is not mentioned; it simply repeats the word staff)
 - C. Coordinating food service (This is not mentioned)
 - D. Registering guests. (This is not mentioned)

READING COMPREHENSION PRACTICE SET

Questions 8-10 refer to the following letter.

Saysee Insurance Company
200 Wilshire Road
London, SW1

May 10,2010

Mr. Franz Thurman
Polderstraat 175

Brussels 1050, Belgium

Dear Mr. Thurman,

With this letter, we acknowledge receipt of your application materials for the position of claims manager at Saysee Insurance Company . Thank you for your interest. Due to the overwhelming response to our advertisement, we will conduct initial interviews over the telephone. Should a follow-up interview then be appropriate, we will ask that you come in to meet with us in person.

To better schedule the initial interview at a mutual convenient time, we are enclosing an Interview Schedule Card. Please complete this card and return it to us as soon as possible. Our schedule permits us to interview only those cards we receive prior to June 3rd.

Thank you once again for you interest . You appear to be a strong candidate, and we look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Marie Reilly
Personnel Manager

8. Who is Franz Thurman?
 - (A) An employee
 - (B) An interviewer
 - (C) An applicant
 - (D) A customer

9. What is the purpose of this letter?
 - (A) To schedule an appointment
 - (B) To make a job offer
 - (C) To reject a candidate
 - (D) To request information (DI)

10. What can be inferred about Saysee's advertisement?
 - (A) Many people replied to it.
 - (B) It was posted online.
 - (C) Few people read it.
 - (D) It ran for two weeks.

READING COMPREHENSION PRACTICE SET

Questions 11-15 refer to the following article.

HONG KONG- Four of the world's largest container shipping lines announced plans yesterday to form an alliance on routes linking Asia with Europe and North America. Negotiations between the companies are set to begin next month and, if successful, will gradually create an alliance over the next two years.

The four shipping lines, all among the top ten in the world, would share space on each other's vessels, so that maximum use can be made of new, faster ships now being built. This involves customers of one line having their containers put on a ship operated by another line in the alliance. The lines will not take equity stakes in each other.

A spokesperson for one of the companies said the four hoped to agree on the specifics of the plan within the next six to eight months.

11. What is the main idea of the article?
- (A) A large trading block will be created.
 - (B) Cargo shipments are getting bigger.
 - (C) A transportation coalition will be formed.
 - (D) Air freight could become cheaper.
12. Who will participate in the alliance?
- (A) Four large shipping companies.
 - (B) Governments in Asia, Europe, and North America.
 - (C) A group of manufacturing companies.
 - (D) Several customer protection groups.
13. How will members benefit from the alliance?
- (A) By sharing space on ships.
 - (B) Through reduced competition
 - (C) By sharing port facilities
 - (D) Through access to larger ships.
14. The word specifics as used in line 9 is closest in meaning to
- (A) members.
 - (B) costs.
 - (C) details.
 - (D) containers
15. When will the alliance be created?
- (A) Immediately
 - (B) At the end of the month
 - (C) Within six to eight months
 - (D) Over a two year period

READING COMPREHENSION PRACTICE SET

8. Who is Franz Thurman? (Detail/What)
- A. An employee (No, he would like to be an employee.)
 - B. An interview (He will be the interviewee.)
 - C. An applicant **CORRECT**
 - D. A customer (This is not mentioned)
9. What is the purpose of this letter? (Gist/What)
- A. To schedule an appointment **CORRECT**
 - B. To make a job offer (A job offer would come after the interview)
 - C. To reject a candidate (The company wants to interview the candidate by telephone.)
 - D. To request information (No information is being requested.)
10. What can be inferred about Saysee's advertisement? (Detail/What)
- A: Many people replied to it. **CORRECT**
 - B: It was posted online.(This is is not mentioned. Also, we do not know where it was posted.)
 - C: Few people read it. (No, the response was overwhelming, meaning many people applied.)
 - D: It ran for two weeks. (This is mentioned.)
11. What is the main idea of the article? (Gist/What)
- A: A large trading block will be created. (A trading block is not being created.)
 - B: Cargo shipments are getting bigger. (Possibly, but this is not mentioned)
 - C: A transportation coalition will be formed. **CORRECT**
 - D: Air freight could become cheaper. (This is not mentioned)
12. Who will participate in the alliance? (Gist/Who)
- A: Four large shipping companies. **CORRECT**
 - B: Government in Asia, Europe, and North America (These are the shipping routes that will be linked.)
 - C: A group of manufacturing companies. (These are not manufacturing companies.)
 - D: Several customer protection groups (This is not mentioned.)
13. How will members benefit from the alliance? (Detail/How)
- A: By sharing space on ships **CORRECT**
 - B: Through reduced competition. (This is possible, but is not mentioned.)
 - C: By sharing port facilities (This is possible, but not mentioned)
 - D: Through access to larger ships. (No, the passage says to maximize use...of faster ships)
15. The word specifics as used in line 9 is closest in meaning to (Vocabulary)
- A: members
 - B: costs.
 - C: details **CORRECT**
 - D: containers.