The Official Cambridge Guide to IELTS

Reading

학습목표

- **Opinions and attitudes (p73 - 77)**

- dealing with argumentative texts
- identifying a writer's views/claims
- identifying grammatical features
- Yes / No / Not Given questions
- summary completion with a box
- summary completion without a box

1 Argumentative texts

The most difficult and complex texts are in Reading Section 3. These passages may feature arguments for or against a specific idea or theory. Or, they may present a discussion of different arguments. In texts like this, it is important to be aware of the writer's overall tone. A writer's choice of words often indicates their attitude towards a topic.

1.1 Put the adjectives into the correct column, to show whether they suggest a positive or negative tone.

diverse	disastrous	unspoilt	biased
accomplished	vulnerable	productive	realistic
confusing	irrelevant	sophisticated	harsh
catastrophic	efficient	monotonous	distorted
thorough	influential	prominent	dated

positive	negative

positive	negative
diverse	disastrous
unspoilt	biased
accomplished	vulnerable
productive	dated
realistic	confusing
sophisticated	irrelevant
efficient	harsh
thorough	catastrophic
influential	monotonous
prominent	distorted

1.2 Spend two minutes skim reading the following passage to get the main ideas. Then read it again and underline any adjectives that you think might indicate a personal opinion or attitude.

Living with Mies

Lafayette Park is a group of modernist townhouses in the US designed by the architect Mies van der Rohe.

Paragraph 1

A few blocks east of downtown Detroit sits Lafayette Park, an enclave of single- and two-storey modernist townhouses set amid a forest of locust trees. Like hundreds of developments nationwide, they were the result of postwar urban renewal; unlike almost all of them, it had a trio of world-class designers behind it: Ludwig Hilbersheimer as urban planner; Alfred Caldwell as landscape designer; and Mies van der Rohe as architect.

Paragraph 2

The townhouses were built between 1958 and 1962 on land previously occupied by a working-class neighbourhood. While much of Detroit began a steep decline soon after, Lafayette Park stayed afloat, its residents bucking the trend of suburban flight. Lafayette Park today is one of the most racially integrated neighbourhoods in the city. It is economically stable, despite the fact that Detroit has suffered enormous population loss.

Paragraph 3

We wanted to know what residents think about this unique modernist environment created by a famous architect, and how they confront and adapt it to meet their needs. During our research, we were struck by the casual attitude that many residents have toward the architecture. Then again, Detroit has an abundance of beautiful housing options: one can live in a huge Victorian mansion, a beautiful arts and crafts house or a cavernous loft-conversion space in a former factory. Living in a townhouse built by a renowned architect isn't as noteworthy as one might think. At the same time, such nonchalance is a mark of success: the homes are great because they work, not because they come affixed with a famous name.

Paragraph 4

Indeed, their beauty isn't always obvious. There is a kind of austere uniformity to the Lafayette Park townhouses when viewed from the outside. Some visitors find them unappealing; one contractor described them as 'bunkers'. The interior layouts are nearly identical. The units are compact in size and some people find them too small, though the floor-to-ceiling windows on the front and back of each building open the living spaces to the outside.

Paragraph 5

While they may have strong aesthetic preferences, the residents we spoke with do not necessarily favour mid-century modernism in their interiors or architecture. But they make it work: several people remarked on the way the interiors in the Lafayette Park townhouses can function as blank canvases for a variety of decorating styles. Indeed, the best design doesn't force a personality on its residents. Instead, it helps them bring out their own.

2 Identifying the writer's views/claims

In Yes / No / Not Given tasks, you will be asked whether the statements in the questions match the views or claims of the writer. A view is a personal opinion. A claim is a statement made by the writer and presented as a fact.

2.1 Look at these extracts and decide whether you think they are *views or claims.*

I Like hundreds of developments nationwide, they were the result of post-war urban renewal.

2 While much of Detroit began a steep decline soon after, Lafayette Park stayed afloat.

3 Detroit has an abundance of beautiful housing options.

4 There is a kind of austere uniformity to the Lafayette Park townhouses when viewed from the outside.

5 Indeed, the best design doesn't force a personality on its residents.

2.1 Look at these extracts and decide whether you think they are *views or claims.*

I Like hundreds of developments nationwide, they were the result of post-war urban renewal. Claim

2 While much of Detroit began a steep decline soon after, Lafayette Park stayed afloat. Claim

3 Detroit has an abundance of beautiful housing options. View

4 There is a kind of austere uniformity to the Lafayette Park townhouses when viewed from the outside. View

5 Indeed, the best design doesn't force a personality on its residents. View

There are a lot of similarities between True / False / Not Given questions and Yes / No / Not Given questions. But the main difference is that True / False / Not Given questions are based on factual information in the Reading passage. Yes / No / Not Given questions ask you to interpret the views or claims of the writer.

2.2 Look at the statements below and write

YES if the statement agrees with the views or claims in the

Reading passage,

NO if the statement contradicts the views of the writer,

NOT GIVEN if it is impossible to say what the writer thinks.

1 It is the era in which Lafayette Park was developed that makes it special.

2 Since 1962, many people have moved away from Detroit.

3 Mies van der Rohe's designs influenced other architects in Detroit.

4 The exterior of each building in Lafayette Park has a distinct style.

5 Good architecture allows its occupants to reveal their identity.

2.3 For each question in 2.2, if you wrote

YES - give supporting evidence from the passage

NO - correct the statements so that they match the views of **the writer**

NOT GIVEN - say what you do know from the passage and say **which part of the passage gave you your answer.**

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1 It is the era in which Lafayette Park was developed that makes it special.

No

Paragraph 1

A few blocks east of downtown Detroit sits Lafayette Park, an enclave of single- and two-storey modernist townhouses set amid a forest of locust trees. Like hundreds of developments nationwide, they were the result of postwar urban renewal; unlike almost all of them, it had a trio of world-class designers behind it: Ludwig Hilbersheimer as urban planner; Alfred Caldwell as landscape designer; and Mies van der Rohe as architect.

1 It is world-class trio designers by whom Lafayette Park was developed that makes it special.

2 Since 1962, many people have moved away from Detroit.

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Paragraph 2

The townhouses were built between 1958 and 1962 on land previously occupied by a working-class neighbourhood. While much of Detroit began a steep decline soon after, Lafayette Park stayed afloat, its residents bucking the trend of suburban flight. Lafayette Park today is one of the most racially integrated neighbourhoods in the city. It is economically stable, despite the fact that Detroit has suffered enormous population loss.

2 Since 1962, many people have moved away from Detroit.

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Not Given

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4 The exterior of each building in Lafayette Park has a distinct style.

No

4 The buildings have a kind of austere uniformity.

5 Good architecture allows its occupants to reveal their identity.

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Paragraph 5

While they may have strong aesthetic preferences, the residents we spoke with do not necessarily favour mid-century modernism in their interiors or architecture. But they make it work: several people remarked on the way the interiors in the Lafayette Park townhouses can function as blank canvases for a variety of decorating styles. Indeed, the best design doesn't force a personality on its residents. Instead, it helps them bring out their own.

5 Good architecture allows its occupants to reveal their identity.

Yes

3 Identifying grammatical features

There are two types of summary completion tasks: one with a box of possible answers, and one without a box, where you need to choose word/s from the passage to complete the summary. With a box of possible answers, the options may be actual words from the passage, or synonyms of words in the passage.

3.1 Look at the box of possible answers (A-F) and decide what type of word each one is (noun, verb, etc.). There may be more than one possible answer.

A settled

B adapt

C neutral

D poor

E afford

F strongly

3.1 Look at the box of possible answers (A-F) and decide what type of word each one is (noun, verb, etc.). There may be more than one possible answer.

A *settled =verb or adjective*

B *adapt =verb*

C *neutral = adjective*

D *poor = adjective or noun*

E *afford = verb*

F *strongly = adverb*

3.2 Read the summary below and decide what type of word (noun, verb, etc.) you need for gaps 1-4.

The residents of Lafayette Park

Lafayette Park was originally quite a 1 _____ area of Detroit. Nowadays, the area is unusual because its residents are more 2 _____ than those in other areas of the city. In general, the residents of Lafayette Park feel quite 3 _____ about the famous architecture they live in. But the residents do appreciate the fact that they can 4 _____ the townhouses and make them their own.

3.3 Read the relevant part of the passage in 1.2 and complete the summary using the list of words (A-F) in 3.1.

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Lafayette Park was originally quite a 1 _____ area of Detroit.

A settled B adapt C neutral D poor E afford F strongly

3.2 Read the summary below and decide what type of word (noun, verb, etc.) you need for gaps 1-4.

The residents of Lafayette Park

Lafayette Park was originally quite a 1 D poor area of Detroit. Nowadays, the area is unusual because its residents are more 2 _____ than those in other areas of the city. In general, the residents of Lafayette Park feel quite 3 _____ about the famous architecture they live in. But the residents do appreciate the fact that they can 4 _____ the townhouses and make them their own.

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We wanted to know what residents think about this unique modernist environment created by a famous architect, and how they confront and adapt it to meet their needs. During our research, we were struck by the casual attitude that many residents have toward the architecture. Then again, Detroit has an abundance of beautiful housing options: one can live in a huge Victorian mansion, a beautiful arts and crafts house or a cavernous loft-conversion space in a former factory. Living in a townhouse built by a renowned architect isn't as noteworthy as one might think. At the same time, such nonchalance is a mark of success: the homes are great because they work, not because they come affixed with a famous name.

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For summary completion tasks without a box of answers

- consider the grammatical features of the summary.
- choose words from the text that accurately complete the summary.

Test Tip

Use the title of the summary to help you find the part of the passage you need to read in detail to find your answers.

3.4 Skim read this passage to understand the main points.

Meerkat study

Dr Alex Thornton from the University of Cambridge recently led a study into meerkat society. Meerkats are highly social mongooses that live in large social groups and take turns foraging for food and standing guard to look out for predators. Research has shown that the animals have their own traditions within their group. For example, while members of one meerkat troop will consistently rise very early, those of another will emerge from their burrows much later in the morning.

In an attempt to assess whether meerkats simply copy these behavior patterns or are taught them, Thornton and his team travelled to the Kalahari Desert and set a series of tests for a group in the wild. One test involved putting a scorpion (the meerkats' favourite food) into a transparent container. The meerkats had to work out how to open the opaque lid of the container in order to reach the scorpion inside. The tests showed that the more subordinate juvenile members of meerkat troops are the most innovative when it comes to foraging - these low-ranking males were best at solving problems and obtaining the treat. However, Dr Thornton conceded that the meerkats didn't ever appear to work out that it was the opaque surface of the box that they should attack in preference to the transparent ones. So, this may simply be evidence of persistence rather than actual intelligence.

3.5 Look at this summary completion task.

1 What types of word will you need to fill in the gaps in the summary?

A recent study at Cambridge University discovered that different meerkat groups 1 _____ at different times of the day. This demonstrates that each group has distinct customs. They also learned that young, male meerkats were more 2 _____ than other members of their social groups when it came to problem solving. The researchers conducted an experiment where the meerkats had to try to open a container. If they did, they were rewarded with a 3_____ However, they also found that the meerkats never learned that it was the 4 _____ part of the container that they needed to open.

3.6 Read the text in 3.5 carefully and choose ONE WORD ONLY from the text to complete each answer in the summary.

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Test Tip

For any questions where you need to write words from the passage, a hyphenated word (e.g. *long-term) counts as* one word.

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