

Reading: Fill in the blanks

This item type assesses reading skills and requires you to use contextual and grammatical cues to complete a reading text by identifying the single correct answer for each blank.

In the text below some words are missing. Drag words from the box below to the appropriate place in the text. To undo an answer choice, drag the word back to the box below the text.

Considering their lingering reputation as man-killers, it's hardly surprising that hackles are raised any time someone brings up the idea of [] wolves to the Scottish Highlands. Debate on this topic has been raging for years; [] would like to see the Highland environment returned to its natural state. Opponents [] the animals' [] for killing livestock.

proponents	reacquainting	propensity	reintroducing	cite
activists	accuse			

Item Type Strategies

Strategy 1

First read the whole text quickly to make sure you understand the general topic and meaning.

Strategy 2

Look at the context around the gap and try to predict the word or type of word that could logically fill each gap before you look at the word options.

Strategy 3

Look at and analyze the options. Choose the one that best matches your predictions.

Explanation and Practice of Each Strategy

Strategy 1

For this item type it is important to quickly skim the whole text first to get an overall idea of the meaning. When we read gapped texts quickly for gist, our mind predicts and fills in gaps in our reading with logical information.

To practice this strategy, do the following activities:

- Read the text for Item 1 without looking at the word options.
- Try to quickly skim the text in 1 minute and then summarize the overall meaning.

Strategy 2

Once you have established the overall meaning of the text, you should read it through again without looking at the word options. This time try to predict the word or part of speech that is needed to fill each gap.

To practice this strategy, do the following activities:

- Read the text again and predict the word or part of speech that is needed to fill each gap.
- Go through each sentence one-by-one, and make notes on your thoughts.

Strategy 3

Looking at each gap in turn, analyze the options to see how or whether each one matches your earlier predictions, and pick the options that are best matches grammatically or in terms of meaning.

To practice this strategy, do the following activities:

- Look at the word options for Item 1.
- Analyze the options according to the predictions that you made in the previous activity. Look for words that match your predictions in terms of meaning and part of speech.
- Then check the answers for Item 1.

Respond to a (Reading) Fill in the Blanks Item

You will now respond to a test item simulating the test conditions. Remind yourself of the three strategies for this item type and apply them.

Look at Item 2, and give yourself three minutes to complete the text.

Assess your Response

Were you able to use the strategies? Which one was the most difficult to apply? Which one was the most useful?

Read through the answers for Item 2 and think about why these answers are most appropriate.

Item 1

In the text below some words are missing. Fill in the blanks by writing the words in the blanks.

Considering their lingering reputation as man-killers, it's hardly surprising that hackles are raised any time someone brings up the idea of wolves to the Scottish Highlands. Debate on this topic has been raging for years; would like to see the Highland environment returned to its natural state. Opponents the animals' for killing livestock.

Item 1: Answer Key

Considering their lingering reputation as man-killers, it's hardly surprising that hackles are raised any time someone brings up the idea of reintroducing wolves to the Scottish Highlands. Debate on this topic has been raging for years; proponents would like to see the Highland environment returned to its natural state. Opponents cite the animals' propensity for killing livestock.

Item 2

In the text below some words are missing. Fill in the blanks by writing the words in the blanks.

A charge often leveled against organic agriculture is that it is more philosophy than science. There's some truth to this indictment, if that is what it is, though why organic farmers should feel about it is itself a mystery, a relic, perhaps, of our fetishism of science as the only tool with which to approach nature. The philosophy of natural processes precedes the science of understanding them.

Item 2: Answer Key

A charge often leveled against organic agriculture is that it is more philosophy than science. There's some truth to this indictment, if that is what it is, though why organic farmers should feel about it is itself a mystery, a relic, perhaps, of our fetishism of science as the only tool with which to approach nature. The philosophy of natural processes precedes the science of understanding them.