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Reading Sample One

Wind Power in the US

Prompted by the oil crises of the 1970s, a wind-power industry flourished briefly in the United States. But then world oil prices dropped, and funding for research into renewable energy was cut. By the mid 1980s US interest in wind energy as a large-scale source of energy had almost disappeared. The development of wind power at this time suffered not only from badly designed equipment, but also from poor long-term planning, economic projections that were too optimistic and the difficulty of finding suitable locations for the wind turbines.

Only now are technological advances beginning to offer hope that wind power will come to be accepted as a reliable and important source of electricity. There have been significant successes in California, in particular, where wind farms now have a capacity of 1500 megawatts, comparable to a large nuclear or fossil-fuelled power station, and produce 1.5 per cent of the state's electricity.

Nevertheless, in the U.S., the image of wind power is still distorted by early failures. One of the most persistent criticisms is that wind power is not a significant energy resource. Researchers at the Battelle Northwest Laboratory, however, estimate that today wind turbine technology could supply 20 per cent of the electrical power the country needs. As a local resource, wind power has even greater potential. Minnesota's energy commission calculates that a wind farm on one of the state's south western ridges could supply almost all that state's electricity. North Dakota alone has enough sites suitable for wind farms to supply more than a third of all electricity consumed in the continental US.

The prevailing notion that wind power is too costly results largely from early research which focused on turbines with huge blades that stood hundreds of metres tall. These machines were not designed for ease of production or maintenance, and they were enormously expensive. Because the major factors influencing the overall cost of wind power are the cost of the turbine and its supporting systems, including land, as well as operating and maintenance costs, it is hardly surprising that it was thought at the time that wind energy could not be supplied at a commercially competitive price. More recent developments such as those seen on California wind farms have dramatically changed the economic picture for wind energy. These systems, like installations in Hawaii and several European countries, have benefited from the economies of scale that come through standardised manufacturing and purchasing. The result has been a dramatic drop in capital costs: the installed cost of new wind turbines stood at \$1000 per kilowatt in 1993, down from about \$4000 per kilowatt in 1980, and continues to fall. Design improvements and more efficient maintenance programs for large numbers of turbines have reduced operating costs as well. The cost of electricity delivered by wind farm turbines has decreased from about 30 cents per kilowatt-hour to between 7 and 9 cents, which is generally less than the cost of electricity from conventional power stations. Reliability has also improved dramatically. The latest turbines run more than 95 per cent of the time, compared with around 60 per cent in the early 1980s.

Another misconception is that improved designs are needed to make wind power feasible. Out of the numerous wind turbine designs proposed or built by inventors or developers, the propeller-blade type, which is based on detailed analytical models as well as extensive experimental data, has emerged as

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IELTS Speaking Part 1 Activity – teacher's notes

Description

An activity to introduce Speaking Part 1, focusing on what this part of the exam involves and the topics covered and to give students practice in talking about these topics using related vocabulary.

Time required: 60 minutes

Additional materials required:

- a large piece of paper, at least A4 size for each student
- pens

Aims:

- to introduce Part 1 speaking and to explain its purpose.
- to practise answering the types of question that may be asked in this part of the exam.
- to develop students' vocabularies

Procedure

1. Explain or elicit what happens in Part 1 Speaking and what the purpose of this might be. Based on this, elicit from the class what topics might be asked about, e.g. accommodation, friends, hobbies, food, work or studies.... Write these, spaced out, on the board.
2. Ask students to copy the topics in the form of a mind map onto a large piece of paper. As a class, decide on some typical useful vocabulary for each topic including nouns, verbs and adjectives, e.g. accommodation – flat, neighbourhood, live, close to.
3. Divide the students into groups, with one group per topic (or divide into sub-groups with the same topic if you have a large class). Ask them to continue adding vocabulary to their topic.
4. After 5 minutes, circulate the mind maps around the class so each group has a new topic. Ask students to read the vocabulary and add any more they can think of.
5. Repeat step 4 as many times as suitable for your class size/time.
6. Write the following question on the board: 'Can you tell me about the kind of accommodation you live in?'. Elicit more possible questions about accommodation and write them on the board. (e.g. How long have you lived there? What do you like about living there?)
7. Put the students into pairs and ask them to write down possible questions on the different topics. If possible, these pairs should be formed of students from different groups so they are working with someone new. Go round and check the questions.

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IELTS Speaking Part 1 Activity – teacher's notes

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1. ...the ... A. ... B. ... C. ... D. ...	2. ...the ... A. ... B. ... C. ... D. ...	3. ...the ... A. ... B. ... C. ... D. ...	4. ...the ... A. ... B. ... C. ... D. ...	5. ...the ... A. ... B. ... C. ... D. ...	6. ...the ... A. ... B. ... C. ... D. ...	7. ...the ... A. ... B. ... C. ... D. ...	8. ...the ... A. ... B. ... C. ... D. ...	9. ...the ... A. ... B. ... C. ... D. ...	10. ...the ... A. ... B. ... C. ... D. ...
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READING

SECTION 1

Questions 1-5

Look at the six advertisements for student accommodation, A-F. For which advertisements are the following statements true? Write the correct letter (A-F) in boxes 1-5 on your Answer Sheet.

NB You may use letters more than once.

- 1 It is possible to cook in the room.
- 2 Food is provided as part of the price.
- 3 You have your own bathroom.
- 4 The room is available for a limited period only.
- 5 There is a safe place to keep your bicycle.

A	B
ROOM AVAILABLE - Small room available in a shared student house - Use of kitchen, sitting room and shared bathroom - Handy for university and city centre <i>Sorry no space for bicycles indoors</i> <i>Small breakage deposit payable in advance</i> Non-smokers only CALL 030-4132-9860	LARGE SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE • Hot and cold running water • Use of shared bathroom • Parking space available on request • Internet connection (payable monthly) <i>Annual contract - rent payable monthly</i> <i>References required</i> CALL 030-7656-0098

C

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A NICE ROOM IN A CLEAN HOUSE?

- We are four post-grad students looking for a housemate
 - The house is in a good suburban area close to public transport links
- The room has use of a shared kitchen and bathroom
 - Meals are eaten together (mostly vegetarian) and costs shared
- Space for one bicycle in the (lockable) garden shed

Reasonable rent payable monthly in advance
All applicants will be interviewed

CALL MEL ON 030-9909-7786

IELTS Resource Pack, Practice Test 2 - Reading Answer Key

Q. No.	Answer	Q. No.	Answer
1	1937	21	Not Given
2	1852	22	Yes
3	1825	23	No
4	1932	24	Not Given
5	1854	25	No
6	B	26	Not Given
7	A	27	C
8	B	28	ix
9	Not Given	29	iv
10	No	30	iii
11	Not Given	31	i
12	Yes	32	vii
13	Yes	33	
14	H	34	
15	A	35	A C E H (in any order)
16	E	36	B
17	C	37	D
18	F	38	H
19	Yes	39	C
20	Yes	40	C

Note: () indicates word is not necessary, but if used must be spelt correctly
// indicates alternative answer

yb dica cilf teg nac nemow .yad yreve dica smargorcim 004 deen nemow .jeniprs no niarb sãtããæb ebh eht fo scuffed rojam namow fi .nimativ b A dica cilf jbk332 .fdp(teehs rewsna gniñetsil teehs rewsna gniñetsil tset gnidaca cimedaca ehtã 1 .piz(Selpmas Gniñidaa lla daolnwod jB 981 .fdp(ã ä)tæx eht morw gnitceles(notelpmocom yrammus - ksat elpmas gniñet shime , cyfã ssild (Notelpmoc - Ksat elpmas Gniñidaer Cimmedaca jbk091 .fdp(ã ä)ksat Notelpmoc Ecnetes - Ksat Elpmas Gniñidaer Cimmedaca jbk0 Enã)ciohc elpiltum - KSAT ELPMAS GNIDAER CIMEDACAC jB322 .FDp(ã ä)Rewsna naht eram(Ecihc elpiltum - KSAT ELPMAS GNIDAER cimmedaca jbk231 .fdp(ã ä)Ksat sgnidne Ecnetes Gniñetam - ksat elpmas gniñidaer cimmedaca jbk29 .fdp(ã ä)KSAT EPMAER GNIDAER CIMEDACA jBK 371 .fdp(ã ä)æx eht morw sdrow gnitceles(Notelpmoc Trahc-wolf - KSAT ELPMAER CANDAER CIMEDACAC's A Åseruæf gniñetam - ksat elpmas gniñidaer cimmedaca Åskat elpmas gniñidaer cimmedaca elbadaolnwod .snoitseu rewsna-trohs .notelpmoc lebal margaid .notelpmoc trahc-wolf .notelpmoc elbat .notelpmoc eton .notelpmoc yrammus .notelpmoc ecnetes .sgnidne ecnetes gniñetam .seruæf gniñetam .sgnidne gniñetam .noitamrofni gniñetam .smialc/sweiv sãããeritw gniñitnedi .noitamrofni gniñitnedi .snoitseu ecihc elpiltum .gnidulni .desu si Åskat fo yteirav A .srepapswen dna zenizagam .Ålanruoj .skoob morf nekat era tset gnidacR cimmedaca eht rof stæT A vitamin with 400 micrograms of folic acid in it or eat food that is fortified with folic acid (such as some breakfast cereals and foods made with flour enriched with vitamins). The neural tube defects are serious birth defects of the brain and spine. They develop very early in pregnancy when the neural tube, which becomes the brain and spine, does not close correctly. Folic acid is necessary for the neural tube to close correctly. Start the intake of folic acid after time in the development that the neural tube should have closed (after 6 weeks of pregnancy) does not prevent defects of the neural tube. The two defects of the most common neural tube are the bifidial plug (slices the spine) and the anencephaly (slice the brain). CDC urges all women able to get pregnant to take 400 micrograms of folic acid every day to help prevent the neural tube defects (large birth defects of the brain or the spine of the child). The terms "folic acid" and "folate" are often used interchangeably. However, folate is a general term used to describe vitamin B9 that comes to different forms. These include: folic acid, dihydrofolate (DHF), tetrahydrofolate (THF), 5ã ¸ " 10ã ¸ " methyltetrahydrofolate (5ã ¸ " 10ã ¸ " MTHF), and 5ã ¸ " Methyltetrahydrofolate (5-MTHF) [1]. Folic acid is the synthetic form (man-made) which is used in vitamin supplements and fortified foods such as rice, pasta, bread and some breakfast cereals. Folic acid has been shown to be effective in the prevention of neural tube defects in many scientific studies and countries around the world [2-6]. The folate can be found in foods such as green leafy vegetables, citrus fruits and beans. Women should eat a balanced diet rich in natural folate. It is very difficult for most women to get the recommended daily amount of folate through food alone [7]. The effectiveness of supplements containing some form of folate other than folic acid (such as 5-MTHF, or labeled "Natural Folate")Prevention of neural tube defects has not been studied. The folate in food is easily decomposed by heat and light. Folic acid is the most stable form to the heat of vitamin B9 and is therefore more suitable for food fortification since many fortified products, such as bread, are cooked [8]. Folic acid has proven to be effective in preventing neural tube defects in randomized control studies, community intervention programs and food fortification programs. [2-6] Folic acid is easily absorbed into the body and studies have shown that it can increase concentrations of blood folate among populations (including those with the MTHFR TT variant below for addition information) [9, 10]. The concentration of folates in the blood is the amount of folates measured in the blood. When a woman gets folic acid through foods or supplements, the concentration of folates in the blood increases. When the concentration of folates in the blood is too low, there may be medical problems. Concentrations of very low blood folates can cause a form of anemia called megaloblastic anemia. Having enough folate in the blood can help improve a woman's health and can reduce the risk of having a pregnancy influenced by a neural tube defect [11]. Once a woman begins to take 400 micrograms of folic acid every day, it may be necessary several months to reach a concentration of folates in the blood sufficiently high to help prevent neural tube defects. The amount of folic acid and/or folate food and the time period that is consumed before pregnancy are the most important factors to achieve a concentration of folates in the blood which is high enough to help prevent neural tube defects. Yes. All women, including those whothe genotype MTHFR TT or CT, can benefit from getting 400 micrograms of folic acid every day, especially before and during early pregnancy. MTHFR (methyltetrahydrofolate reductase) is an enzyme that plays a role in how people process folate. A common variant of the MTHFR enzyme (also known as MTHFR TT or CT)Determines how quickly some people can process folates. Although women with the MTHFR TT or CT genotype process are slower, they can increase concentrations of sufficient blood folates to help prevent neural tube defects by taking the recommended daily amount (400 micrograms) of folic acid [11]. Research studies have shown that in populations with high levels of the MTHFR TT or CT genotype, obtaining 400 micrograms of folic acid each day before and during early pregnancy can reduce the risk of neural tube defects up to 85% [5, 11]. Many studies have shown that folic acid consumption increases concentrations of folate in the blood. For example, a research study showed that after three months of consumption of 400 folic acid micrograms, blood folate concentrations increased by more than 250% between women with the MTHFR TT genotype [9]. Crider, K.S., L.B. Bailey and R.J. Berry, food fortification folic acid history, effect, concerns and future directions. Nutrients, 2011. 3 (3): p. 370-84. 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Health Nutr, 2012. 15(7): p. 1216-27. Seyoum, E. and J. Selhub, Properties of food folates determined by stability and susceptibility to intestinal pteroylpolyglutamate hydrolase action. J Nutr, 1998. 128(11): p. 1956-60. Crider, K.S., et al., MTHFR 677C>T genotype is associated with folate and homocysteine concentrations in a large, population-based, double-blind trial of folic acid supplementation. Am J Clin Nutr, 2011. 93(6): p. 1365-72. Shelmut, K.P., et al., Methylene tetrahydrofolate reductase 677C>T polymorphism affects DNA methylation in response to controlled folate intake in young women. J Nutr Biochem, 2004. 15(9): p. 554-60. Crider, K.S., et al., Population red blood cell folate concentrations for prevention of neural tube defects: bayesian model. BMJ, 2014. 349: p. q4554. As a job seeker, you want to be compensated according to your worth. Still, a potential employer might measure your value based on your past salary. Some employers require that you put this information on your application form. In some cases, the hiring manager raises the question during the interview. Whether you should disclose your past salary is a personal choice. However, in an article published by the Public Broadcasting Service, headhunter Nick Corcodilos advises never giving your present or past salary to a potential employer. If your past salary is lower than what the company has in mind for the position, the employer might think you lack the necessary skills and disqualify you. If you give a higher amount, the employer may rule you out, thinking you would not be interested in a lower salary. Corcodilo says potential employers do not need your salary history to employ you. Many do it to pressure candidates into giving up confidential information, which gives them the upper hand during salary negotiations. You can use tact and diplomacy to try to get around questions about your past salary. According to the Career Services at The University of San Francisco, it is best to say you would prefer to know more about the position before discussing compensation. In addition, acknowledge that you are certain both sides can arrive at a mutually beneficial salary after the interview. Then, explain that you would be happy to demonstrate what you can do for the company. Another strategy for working around salary questions is to try to get the interviewer to give you the budgeted salary range for the position. In an article published by Forbes magazine, career coach Lisa Quast suggests revealing the salary range your research shows for similar positions, and then asking for the company's budgeted range. To find out the market range for the position, use resources such as career services websites, job listings for the same position, professional organizations in your industry, business or trade magazines that list salary surveys, or recruiters that place people in your field. When asked about past salary, you can respond with your desired salary range. This tells the hiring manager whether your current salary expectations fit the company's budget for the position. It also indicates you are willing to compromise. Note that companies usually have budgeted amounts for posted positions. Therefore, it might best to ask for the budgeted salary range before revealing your salary expectations. Quast suggests discussing your desired salary range in the initial telephone screening instead of waiting until the actual interview. This helps put you both on the same page and makes it easier to discuss salary during the interview. Some hiring managers are inflexible and will expect you to disclose your past salary. In an article published by Monster.com, independent staffing consultant Lori Itani says that when speaking to candidates she asks for their past salary, and that they all end up disclosing the information. If you agree with experts who say that you never disclose your past salary, you may have to politely and calmly walk away if the hiring manager becomes too rigid. This is particularly true if she insists that you disclose the information even after you have proven your worth in the interview. Regardless of which route you choose, refrain from lying about your past salary. salary.

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