

IELTS Free Lesson 2: Reading — True, False or Not Given?

IELTS Foundation Series — Free Lesson 2 of 2

Target: Band 5–6 (CEFR B1)

What is True, False or Not Given?

In IELTS Reading, you read a passage and decide if each statement is **True**, **False**, or **Not Given**, based only on what is written in the text.

TRUE	The statement agrees with the information in the passage.
FALSE	The statement contradicts (is different from) the information in the passage.
NOT GIVEN	The information is not in the passage. You cannot tell if it is true or false.

Tips

Only use the passage

- Do not use your own knowledge. Only look at what the passage says.
- If the passage does not mention something, the answer is Not Given — even if you know it is true from real life.

The difference between False and Not Given

- False = the passage says something opposite or different.
- Not Given = the passage does not mention it at all.
- This is the most common mistake — take your time here.

Reading Passage: Urban Beekeeping

Urban beekeeping — the practice of keeping bees in cities and towns — has become increasingly popular in many countries over the past two decades. Supporters argue that city bees can actually be healthier than rural ones, because urban gardens and parks often contain a wider variety of flowering plants than modern farmland, which tends to focus on a small number of crops.

However, urban beekeeping is not without its critics. Some ecologists have raised concerns that large numbers of honeybees in cities may put pressure on wild bee populations, which rely on the same food sources. Wild bees, including bumblebees and solitary bee species, are considered more important for pollination than honeybees by many researchers.

In cities such as London and Paris, rooftop beehives have become a common sight. Paris is home to several hundred beehives on the rooftops of famous landmarks, including the Paris Opera House. The honey produced in Paris has been described by experts as particularly flavourful, due to the wide range of plants available to city bees.

Getting started with urban beekeeping requires training and equipment, and in many cities, beekeepers must register their hives with local authorities. The initial cost can be high, but many beekeepers say the rewards — both in honey and in the enjoyment of working with bees — make it worthwhile.

Exercise 1: True, False or Not Given?

Do the following statements agree with the information in the passage? Write T, F, or NG.

1. Urban bees can sometimes be healthier than bees in the countryside. _____
2. All ecologists agree that honeybees are the most important pollinators. _____
3. Urban beekeeping is popular in more than twenty countries. _____
4. Paris has beehives on the rooftops of some famous buildings. _____
5. The honey produced in London is more flavourful than Parisian honey. _____
6. In many cities, beekeepers are required to register their hives. _____

Exercise 2: Vocabulary from the Passage

Complete each sentence with a word from the passage.

Word bank: pollination, landmark, flavourful, ecologists, register, worthwhile

1. Scientists who study the natural environment are called ____.
2. The transfer of pollen between plants, which helps them produce seeds, is called ____.
3. A famous building or place that people recognise easily is called a ____.
4. Food that has a strong, pleasant taste is described as ____.
5. If something is worth the time, money, or effort you spend on it, it is ____.
6. To officially add your name and information to an official list is to ____.

ANSWER KEY — TEACHER USE ONLY

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Exercise 1: True, False or Not Given

- 1. True – 'city bees can actually be healthier than rural ones'
- 2. False – wild bees are 'considered more important for pollination than honeybees by many researchers'
- 3. Not Given – the passage says 'many countries' but gives no specific number
- 4. True – 'several hundred beehives on the rooftops of famous landmarks, including the Paris Opera House'
- 5. Not Given – London honey is not mentioned or compared
- 6. True – 'in many cities, beekeepers must register their hives with local authorities'

Exercise 2: Vocabulary

- 1. ecologists
- 2. pollination
- 3. landmark
- 4. flavourful
- 5. worthwhile
- 6. register