

Speed Reading Practice for Eiken Pre-1: No. 10

Total: 12 minutes (Passage 1: 4 min / Passage 2: 6 min / Review: 2 min)

Target Score...Passing Target: At least 5 out of 7 correct...High Score Target: At least 6 out of 7 correct

Read each passage and choose the best answer from among the four choices for each question.

Learning in Museums

Museums have traditionally been seen as places where visitors go to observe valuable objects and learn about history, science, or art. In recent years, however, many museums have been rethinking how they present knowledge. Rather than expecting visitors to remain passive, some now design exhibits that encourage participation through experiments, games, discussions, or digital technology. This shift reflects the idea that people often understand and remember information better when they are actively involved in the learning process.

Supporters of this approach argue that interactive exhibits can make museums more appealing to a wider range of visitors, including children and people who might otherwise feel that museums are too formal or difficult to understand. In science museums, for example, hands-on activities may allow visitors to test ideas directly instead of only reading explanations. In history or art museums, interactive elements may encourage visitors to ask questions and consider multiple perspectives. For this reason, some museum educators believe participation can deepen understanding rather than simply entertain.

Still, not everyone is convinced that more interaction is always better. Some critics worry that in trying to attract larger audiences, museums may place too much emphasis on entertainment and too little on careful explanation. Others argue that certain objects or ideas require quiet attention and cannot easily be appreciated through games or technology. There is also concern that expensive digital exhibits may be difficult to maintain and may quickly become outdated.

Because of these concerns, many specialists suggest that the most effective museums are those that combine interactive methods with opportunities for slower, more reflective learning. In this view, participation should support understanding, not replace it. A successful museum experience may therefore depend on balancing engagement with depth.

Questions

- (1) Why have some museums changed the way they present knowledge?
1. Because they want visitors to spend less time looking at objects.
 2. Because they believe people may learn better when they take an active role.
 3. Because traditional exhibits are no longer allowed in most countries.
 4. Because museums now focus only on children rather than adults.
- (2) According to the passage, what is one possible advantage of interactive exhibits?
1. They can make museums easier to approach for a wider range of visitors.
 2. They guarantee that visitors will understand all difficult ideas.
 3. They remove the need for explanation by museum staff.
 4. They are cheaper to maintain than traditional exhibits.
- (3) What is the author's main point in the final paragraph?
1. Museums should replace traditional exhibits with digital ones.
 2. Museums are most effective when they balance participation with thoughtful learning.
 3. Entertainment is more important than historical accuracy in museums.
 4. Quiet reflection is no longer useful in modern museum education.

Making Buildings Greener

Buildings are responsible for a large share of global energy use, so improving their environmental performance has become an important goal in many countries. One approach is to design or renovate buildings so that they use less energy for heating, cooling, and lighting. This may involve better insulation, more efficient windows, or systems that automatically adjust energy use depending on weather and occupancy. In some cases, buildings also include solar panels, rainwater collection, or materials chosen for their lower environmental impact.

Supporters of green building argue that such measures can reduce both pollution and long-term costs. A more efficient building may consume less electricity and fuel over many years, which can lower expenses for owners and tenants. In addition, better indoor air quality and natural lighting may improve comfort and even health for the people who use the building. For these reasons, green design is often presented as a way to benefit both the environment and everyday life.

However, green building is not without difficulties. Environmentally friendly designs often require higher initial investment, and not all owners can afford the extra cost at the start of a project. There is also debate about how “green” some buildings really are, especially if they use complex technologies that are expensive to produce or difficult to repair. Critics therefore argue that claims about sustainability should be examined carefully rather than accepted too easily.

For this reason, many experts believe that greener buildings are an important part of environmental policy, but not a complete answer by themselves. Their value depends not only on design but also on how people use them, how energy is produced, and whether broader systems such as transportation and city planning also become more sustainable.

Questions

- (4) Why are greener buildings receiving more attention?
1. Because buildings use a large amount of the world's energy.
 2. Because older buildings can no longer be repaired safely.
 3. Because most countries have stopped investing in transportation.
 4. Because solar panels are now required on all buildings.
- (5) What is one benefit of green building mentioned in the passage?
1. It ensures that construction costs will always be lower.
 2. It may reduce long-term energy expenses and improve indoor comfort.
 3. It eliminates the need for city planning.
 4. It allows all building materials to be reused immediately.
- (6) What concern about green building does the passage mention?
1. Some environmentally friendly designs may cost more at the beginning.
 2. Green buildings are always harder to heat than ordinary buildings.
 3. Tenants usually prefer buildings with fewer windows.
 4. Green technology has already been rejected in most countries.
- (7) What does the author suggest in the final paragraph?
1. Green building should replace all other environmental measures.
 2. Green building is useful, but it must be combined with broader changes.
 3. Building design has no effect unless transportation is improved first.
 4. Sustainability claims should never be trusted.