

makkarIELTS ONLINE ACADEMIC READING TEST 4

KOALAS

- A. Koalas are just too nice for their own good. And except for the occasional baby taken by birds of prey, koalas have no natural enemies. In an ideal world, the life of an arboreal couch potato would be perfectly safe and acceptable.
- B. Just two hundred years ago, koalas flourished across Australia. Now they seem to be in decline, but exact numbers are not available as the species would not seem to be 'under threat'. Their problem, however, has been man, more specifically, the white man. Koala and aborigine had co-existed peacefully for centuries.
- C. Today koalas are found only in scattered pockets of southeast Australia, where they seem to be at risk on several fronts. The koala's only food source, the eucalyptus tree has declined. In the past 200 years, a third of Australia's eucalyptus forests have disappeared. Koalas have been killed by parasites, chlamydia epidemics and a tumour-causing retro-virus. And every year 11000 are killed by cars, ironically most of them in wildlife sanctuaries, and thousands are killed by poachers. Some are also taken illegally as pets. The animals usually soon die, but they are easily replaced.
- D. Bush fires pose another threat. The horrific ones that raged in New South Wales recently killed between 100 and 1000 koalas. Many that were taken into sanctuaries and shelters were found to have burnt their paws on the glowing embers. But zoologists say that the species should recover. The koalas will be aided by the eucalyptus, which grows quickly and is already burgeoning forth after the fires. So, the main problem to their survival is their slow reproductive rate - they produce only one baby a year over a reproductive lifespan of about nine years.
- E. The latest problem for the species is perhaps more insidious. With plush, grey fur, dark amber eyes and button nose, koalas are cuddliness incarnate. Australian zoos and wildlife parks have taken advantage of their uncomplaining attitudes, and charge visitors to be photographed hugging the furry bundles. But people may not realise how cruel this is, but because of the koala's delicate disposition, constant handling can push an already precariously balanced physiology over the edge. m@kk@IELTS
- F. Koalas only eat the foliage of certain species of eucalyptus trees, between 600 and 1250 grams a day. The tough leaves are packed with cellulose, tannins, aromatic oils and precursors of toxic cyanides. To handle this cocktail, koalas have a specialised digestive system. Cellulose digesting bacteria in the break down fibre, while a specially adapted gut and liver process the toxins. To digest their food properly, koalas must sit still for 21 hours every day.
- G. Koalas are the epitome of innocence and inoffensiveness. Although they are capable of ripping open a man's arm with their needle-sharp claws, or giving a nasty nip, they simply wouldn't. If you upset a koala, it may blink or swallow, or hiccup. But attack? No way! Koalas are just not aggressive. They use their claws to grip the hard, smooth bark of eucalyptus trees.

- H. They are also very sensitive, and the slightest upset can prevent them from breeding, cause them to go off their food, and succumb to gut infections. Koalas are stoic creatures and put on a brave face until they are at death's door. One day they may appear healthy, the next they could be dead. Captive koalas have to be weighed daily to check that they are feeding properly. A sudden loss of weight is usually the only warning keepers have that their charge is ill. Only two keepers plus a vet were allowed to handle London Zoo's koalas, as these creatures are only comfortable with people they know. A request for the koala to be taken to meet the Queen was refused because of the distress this would have caused the marsupial. Sadly, London's Zoo no longer has a koala. Two years ago, the female koala died of a cancer caused by a retrovirus. When they come into heat, female koalas become more active, and start losing weight, but after about sixteen days, heat ends and the weight piles back on. London's koala did not. Surgery revealed hundreds of pea-sized tumours.

Almost every zoo in Australia has koalas - the marsupial has become the Animal Ambassador of the nation, but nowhere outside Australia would handling by the public be allowed. Koala cuddling screams in the face of every rule of good care. First, some zoos allow koalas to be passed from stranger to stranger, many children who love to squeeze. Secondly, most people have no idea of how to handle the animals; they like to cling on to their handler, all in their own good time and use his or her arm as a tree. For such reasons, the Association of Fauna and Marine parks, an Australian conservation society is campaigning to ban koala cuddling and change the policy on koala handling, currently managed by the government.

Questions 1-5 www.youtube.com/makkarielts

Choose the correct letter, A, B, C or D. Write the correct letter in boxes 1-5 on your answer sheet.

1. The main reason why koala declined is that they are killed EXCEPT FOR
 - A by poachers
 - B by diseases they got
 - C giving too many births yet few survive
 - D accidents on the road
2. What can help koalas fully digest their food?
 - A toxic substance in the leaves
 - B organs that dissolve the fibres
 - C remaining inactive for a period to digest
 - D eating eucalyptus trees
3. In what ways Australian zoos exploit koalas?
 - A encourage people to breed koalas as pets
 - B allow tourists to hug the koalas
 - C put them on the trees as a symbol
 - D establish a koala campaign
4. What would koalas do when facing the dangerous situation?
 - A show signs of being offended
 - B counterattack furiously
 - C use sharp claws to rip the man

D use claws to grip the bark of trees.

5. What would the government do to protect koalas from being endangered?

A ban koala cuddling

B close some of the zoos

C encourage people to resist visiting the zoos

D persuade the public to learn more knowledge

Questions 6-12 www.instagram.com/makkarielts

Do the following statements agree with the information given in Reading Passage 1

In boxes 6-12 on your answer sheet, write

YES if the Statement is true

NO if the statement is false

NOT GIVEN if the information is not given in the passage

6. new human settlers caused danger to koalas.
7. Koalas can still be seen in most of the places in Australia.
8. It takes decade for the eucalyptus trees to recover after the fire.
9. Koalas will fight each other when food becomes scarce.
10. It is not easy to notice that koalas are ill.
11. Koalas are easily infected with human contagious disease via cuddling
12. Koalas like to hang from their trainer's arm.

Questions 13 www.facebook.com/makkarielts

Choose the correct letter, A, B, C or D. Write the correct letter in boxes 13 on your answer sheet.

From your opinion is this article written by

- A. a journalist who write for magazine
- B. a zookeeper in London Zoo.
- C. a tourist who traveling back from Australia
- D. a government official who studies koalas to establish a law

SECTION 2 Keep visiting www.makkarielts.com for latest study material**The BIRTH OF WRITING**

Writing was first invented by the Sumerians in ancient Mesopotamia before 3,000 B.C. It was also independently invented in Meso-America before 600 BC and probably independently invented in China before 1,300 BC. It may have been independently invented in Egypt around 3,000 BC although given the geographical proximity between Egypt and Mesopotamia the Egyptians may have learnt writing from the Sumerians.

There are three basic types of writing systems. The written signs used by the writing system could represent either a whole word, a syllable or an individual sound. Where the written sign represents a word, the system is known as logographic as it uses logograms which are written signs that represent a word. The earliest writing systems such as the Sumerian cuneiform, Egyptian hieroglyphics and Mayan glyphs are predominantly logographics as are modern Chinese and Japanese writing systems. Where the written sign represents a syllable the writing system is known as syllabic. Syllabic writing systems were more common in the ancient world than they are today. The Linear A and B writing systems of Minoan Crete and Mycenaean Greece are syllabic. The most common writing systems today are alphabetical. These involve the written sign (a letter) representing a single sound (known as a phoneme). The earliest known alphabetical systems were developed by speakers of semetic languages around 1700 BC in the area of modern day Israel and Palestine. All written languages will predominately use one or other of the above systems. They may however partly use the other systems. No written language is purely alphabetic, syllabic or logographic but may use elements from any or all systems.

Such fully developed writing only emerged after development from simpler systems. Talley sticks with notches on them to represent a number of sheep or to record a debt have been used in the past. Knotted strings have been used as a form of record keeping particularly in the area around the Pacific rim. They reached their greatest development with the Inca quipus where they were used to record payment of tribute and to record commercial transactions. A specially trained group of quipu makers and readers managed the whole system. The use of pictures for the purpose of communication was used by native Americans and by the Ashanti and Ewe people in Africa. Pictures can show qualities and characteristics which cannot be shown by tally sticks and knot records. They do not however amount to writing as they do not bear a conventional relationship to language.

An alternative idea was that a system by which tokens, which represented objects like sheep, were placed in containers and the containers were marked on the outside indicating the number and type of tokens within the container gave rise to writing in Mesopotamia. The marks on the outside of the container were a direct symbolic representation of the tokens inside the container and an indirect symbolic representation of the object the token represented. The marks on the outside of the containers were graphically identical to some of the earliest pictograms used in Sumerian cuneiform, the worlds first written language. However, cuneiform has approximately 1,500 signs and the marks on the outside of the containers can only explain the origins of a few of those signs.

The first written language was the Sumerian cuneiform. Writing mainly consisted of records of numbers of sheep, goats and cattle and quantities of grain. Eventually clay tablets were used as a writing surface and were marked with a reed stylus to produce the writing. Thousands of such clay tablets have been found in the Sumerian city of Uruk. The earliest Sumerian writing consists of pictures of the objects mentioned such as sheep or cattle. Eventually the pictures became more abstract and were to consist of straight lines that looked like wedges.

The earliest cuneiform was an accounting system consisting of pictograms representing commodities such as sheep and a number. The clay tablets found might for example simply state "ten sheep". Such writing obviously has its limitations and would not be regarded as a complete writing system. A complete writing system only developed with the process of phonetization. This occurs when the symbol ceases to represent an object and begins to represent a spoken sound, which in early cuneiform would be a word. This process was assisted when the symbols which initially looked very like the object they represented gradually became more abstract and less clearly related to an object. However while the symbol became more closely connected to words, it was words dealing with objects, such as sheep, bird or pot. It was still not possible to write more abstract ideas such as father, running, speech or foreigner.

The solution to this problem was known as the rebus principle. Words with the same or similar pronunciation to an abstract word could be used to represent the abstract word. The sign for eye could be used to represent the word "I". The sign for deer could represent the word "dear". Which word is referred to by the picture is decided by an additional sign. Pictographs which originally represented a word began to represent the sound of the word. The rebus principle is used to represent abstract words in all word writing systems in Sumer, Egypt, China and in the Aztec and Mayan writing in central America.

The Rebus principle lead to cuneiform becoming a form of logo-syllabic writing consisting of both logograms and syllabic writing. The effect of the change from logographic to logo-syllabic writing was substantial. Logographic writing cannot produce normal prose and is restricted to nouns, numbers, names and adjectives. The vast majority of early Sumerian writing consisted of bureaucratic records of products received or products distributed. Only when syllabic writing was introduced into cuneiform did it become possible to write prose such as myths and royal propaganda. Makkar|ELTS

The next major development in writing in the old world was the development of the alphabet. The alphabet was developed out of Egyptian hieroglyphs which contained 24 signs for 24 Egyptian consonants. About 1700 BC Semites who knew Egyptian hieroglyphs began making certain changes in their writing system. They put the letters in a particular sequence and gave them simple names to assist learning and ease of memory. They also dropped the logograms and other signs used in hieroglyphs and just kept the Egyptian consonants and restricted the signs to those for individual consonants. Finally, they introduced vowels into their alphabet. Alphabets were soon to spread over most of the world as they provide both flexibility and simplicity for a writing system.

Question 14 – 16 www.makkarielts.com

Complete the summary below. Choose NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS from the passage for each answer. Write your answers in boxes 14 - 16 on your answer sheet.

There are three types of writing systems. Logography utilizes written signs representing a 14..... Syllabic writing systems were more common in the ancient world, as they adopt written sign symbolizing a 15..... The most common alphabetical systems use a letter to represent a 16.....

Question 17 – 23 Keep visiting www.makkarielts.com for latest study material

Do the following statements agree with the information given in Reading Passage?

On your answer sheet please write

TRUE if the statement is true

FALSE if the statement is false

NOT GIVEN if the information is not given in the passage

14. There is no language that adopts elements from only one writing system.
15. Inca quipus used talley sticks to track payments and commercial transactions.
16. The marks on the outside of the containers originated from pictograms used in Sumerian cuneiform.
17. The first written language was created to document the quantities and types of livestock and food.
18. Cuneiform could not express abstract concepts at all.
19. Affected by the rebus principle, cuneiform combined the elements of both logograms and syllabic writing.
20. Most countries adopted alphabetical writing systems due to their flexibility and simplicity.

Question 24 - 27

Use the information in the passage to match the options (listed A - E) with statements (listed 11-14) below. Write the appropriate letter (A - E) in boxes 11 - 14 on your answer sheet. NB Some options may match more than one statement.

- A. Egyptians
- B. Native Americans
- C. Semites
- D. Chinese
- E. Sumerians

21.developed the alphabet from Egyptian hieroglyphs.
22.used pictures for the purpose of communication.
23.invented a written language which consisted of signs looked like wedges.
24.might have independently invented writing 5,000 years ago.

SECTION 3 Keep visiting www.makkarielts.com for latest study material

Different Language Strategies In Multinational Companies

- A. The importance of language management in multinational companies has never been greater than today. Multinationals are becoming ever more conscious of the importance of global coordination as a source of competitive advantage and language remains the ultimate barrier to aspirations of international harmonization. Before attempting to consider language management strategies, companies will have to evaluate the magnitude of the language barrier confronting them and in doing so they will need to examine it in three dimensions: the Language Diversity, the Language Penetration and the Language Sophistication. Companies next need to turn their attention to how they should best manage language. There is a range of options from which MNCs can formulate their language strategy.
- B. **Lingua Franca:** The simplest answer, though realistic only for English speaking companies, is to rely on ones native tongue. As recently as 1991 a survey of British exporting companies found that over a third used English exclusively in dealings with foreign customers. This attitude that "one language fits all" has also been carried through into the Internet age. A survey of the web sites of top American companies confirmed that over half made no provision for foreign language access, and another found that less than 10% of leading companies were able to respond adequately to emails other than in the company's language. Widespread though it is however, reliance on a single language is a strategy that is fatally flawed. It makes no allowance for the growing trend in Linguistic Nationalism whereby buyers in Asia, South America and the Middle East in particular are asserting their right to "work in the language of the customer". It also fails to recognize the increasing vitality of languages such as Spanish, Arabic and Chinese that overtime are likely to challenge the dominance of English as a lingua franca. In the IT arena it ignores the rapid globalization of the Internet where the number of English-language ecommerce transactions, emails and web sites, is rapidly diminishing as a percentage of the total. Finally, the total reliance on a single language puts the English speaker at risk in negotiations. Contracts, rules and legislation are invariably written in the local language, and a company unable to operate in that language is vulnerable.
- C. **Functional Multilingualism:** Another improvised approach to Language is to rely on what has been termed "Functional Multilingualism". Essentially what this means is to muddle through, relying on a mix of languages, pidgins and gestures to communicate by whatever means the parties have at their disposal. In a social context such a shared effort to make one another understand might be considered an aid to the bonding process with the frustration of communication being regularly punctuated by moments of absurdity and humor. However, as the basis for business negotiations it appears very hit-and-nuts. And yet Hagen's recent study suggests that 16% of international business transaction; are conducted in a "cocktail of languages." Functional Multilingualism shares the same defects as reliance on a lingua franca and increases the probability of cognitive divergence between the parties engaged in the communication.
- D. **External Language Resources:** A more rational and obvious response to the language barrier is to employ external resources such as translators and interpreters, and certainly there are many excellent companies specialized in these fields. However, such a response is by no means an end to the language barrier. For a start these services can be very expensive with a top Simultaneous Interpreter, commanding daily rates as

high as a partner in an international consulting company. Secondly, any good translator or interpreter will insist that to be fully effective they must understand the context of the subject matter. This is not always possible. In some cases, it is prohibited by the complexity or specialization of the topic. Sometimes by lack of preparation time but most often the obstacle is the reluctance of the parties to explain the wider context to an 'outsider'. Another problem is that unless there has been considerable pre-explaining between the interpreter and his clients it is likely that there will be ambiguity and cultural overtones in the source messages the interpreter has to work with. They will of course endeavour to provide a hi-fidelity translation but in this circumstance the interpreter has to use initiative and guess work. This clearly injects a potential source of misunderstanding into the proceedings. Finally, while a good interpreter will attempt to convey not only the meaning but also the spirit of any communication, there can be no doubt that there is a loss of rhetorical power when communications go through a third party. So in situations requiring negotiation, persuasion, humor etc. the use of an interpreter is a poor substitute for direct communication.

- E. **Training:** The immediate and understandable reaction to any skills-shortage in a business is to consider personnel development. And certainly the language training industry is well developed, offering programs at almost every level and in numerous languages. However, without doubting the value of language training no company should be deluded into believing this to be assured of success. Training in most companies is geared to the economic cycle. When times are good, money is invested in training. When belts get tightened training is one of the first "luxuries" to be pared down. In a study conducted across four European countries, nearly twice as many companies said they needed language training in coming years as had conducted training in past years. This disparity between "good intentions" and "actual delivery", underlines the problems of relying upon training for language skills. Unless the company is totally committed to sustaining the strategy even though bad times, it will fail.
- F. One notable and committed leader in the field of language training has been the Volkswagen Group. They have developed a language strategy over many years and in many respects can be regarded as a model of how to manage language professionally. However, the Volkswagen approach underlines that language training has to be considered a strategic rather than a tactical solution. In their system to progress from "basics" to "communications competence" in a language requires the completion of 6 language stages each one demanding approximately 90 hours of refresher course, supported by many more hours of self-study, spread over a 6-9 month period. The completion of each stage is marked by a post-stage achievement test, which is a pre-requisite for continued training. So even this professionally managed program expects a minimum of three years of fairly intensive study to produce an accountant, Engineer, buyer or salesperson capable of working effectively in a foreign language. Clearly companies intending to pursue this route need to do so with realistic expectations and with the intention of sustaining the program over many years. Except in terms of "brush-up" courses for people who were previously fluent in a foreign language, training cannot be considered a quick fix and

Questions 28-33 www.youtube.com/makkarielts

Complete the following summary of the Whole Paragraphs of Reading Passage, choosing A-L words from the following options. Write your answers in boxes 28- 33 on your answer sheet.

Summary

MNCs often encounter language barrier in their daily strategy, then they seek several approaches to solve such problems. First, native language gives them a realistic base in a different language speaking country, but problem turned up when they deal with oversea 28..... For example, operation on translation of some key 29....., it is inevitable to generate differences by rules from different countries. Another way is to rely on a combination of spoken language and 30....., yet a report written that over one-tenth business 31..... processed in a party language setting. Third way: hire translators. However, firstly it is 32....., besides if they are not well prepared, they have to resort to his/her own 33..... work.

A. gestures	B. clients	C. transaction	D. understanding and assumption
E. accurate	F. documents	G. managers	H. body language
I. long-term	J. effective	K. rivals	L. costly

Questions 34-40

Answer the questions below. Choose NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS AND/OR A NUMBER from the passage for each answer.

34. What understandable reaction does Training pay attention to according to the author?
35. In what term does the writer describe training during economy depression?
36. What contribution does Volkswagen Group set up for multinational companies?
37. What does Volkswagen Group consider language training as in their company?
38. How many stages are needed from basic course to advanced in training?
39. How long does a refresher course (single stage) need normally?
40. At least how long is needed for a specific professional to acquire a foreign language?

Question 41 www.makkarielts.com

Choose the correct letter, A, B, c or D. Write your answers in boxes 40 on your answer sheet.

41. What is the Main function of this passage?
 - A. to reveal all kinds of language problems that companies may encounter
 - B. to exhibits some well-known companies successfully dealing with language difficulties
 - C. to evaluate various approaches for language barrier in multinational companies
 - D. to testify that training is only feasible approach to solve language problem

ANSWERS

Check your answers here: <https://makkarielts.com/ielts-academic-reading-4-answers/>

makkarielts