

TOEFL Reading Practice Test 28

A Memorable Fact

(1) A phone number can be remembered for up to thirty seconds by the vast majority of people. The numerals, however, are deleted from memory once this short period of time has passed. In the first place, how did the information get there? The sensory storage area is where information is delivered to the short-term memory (STM). The STM, also known as working memory, in the brain has a filter that only enables items of immediate importance to pass through.

(2) The capacity and duration of short-term memory are both hotly debated topics. The most widely recognized idea is that humans can retain around seven bits of information, according to George A. Miller, a cognitive psychologist. A chunk is a eloquent component of data, such as a word or a name, as opposed to a letter or a number. According to modern theories, chunking, or categorizing related information together, can boost the capacity of the short-term memory. One can improve the likelihood of a memory being passed on to long-term storage by structuring information and optimizing the STM.

(3) Many people engage in “rote rehearsal” when they are consciously attempting to learn something, such as exam content. It is possible to keep a memory alive by saying something repeatedly. Unfortunately, no interruptions are required for this sort of memory maintenance to work. The information has a tendency to vanish as soon as a person stops rehearsing it. When a pen and paper aren’t available, individuals frequently try to recall phone numbers by saying them out loud. If a dog barks or a doorbell rings to come inside before a person gets a chance to make a phone call, he will almost certainly forget the number. As a result, rote practice is ineffective for transferring knowledge from short to long-term memory. Practicing “elaborate rehearsal” is a better approach to go. This entails giving a piece of information semantic significance so that it can be filed with other long-term memories that already exist.

(4) It's also easier to find information when it's encoded semantically. Recognition or recall are two methods for retrieving data. Humans can quickly recall memories that have been retained in long-term memory and have been used frequently; nevertheless, if a memory appears to have been forgotten, it can be recalled with prompting. The more signals (such as photos) a person is provided, the more likely it is that a memory will be recalled. This is why multiple-choice examinations are frequently utilized in areas that necessitate a great deal of memorizing.

Questions:

Factual Information

K. How are memories transferred to the STM, according to the text?

- 1. They go back to their long-term memories.***
- 2. When they enter the brain, they are chunked.***
- 3. They're filtered out of the sensory storage facility.***
- 4. They get into the body through the neurological system.***

Negative Factual Information

L. All of these are mentioned as places where memories are kept, with the exception of the:

- 1. STM***
- 2. Maintenance area***
- 3. Long-term memory***
- 4. Sensory storage area***

Reading Vocabulary

M. In paragraph 1, the word 'elapses' has the same meaning as:

- 1. passes***
- 2. totals***
- 3. continues***
- 4. appears***

N. In paragraph 3, the word elaborate is most similar to:

1. *efficient*
2. *complex*
3. *attractive*
4. *consistent*

Rhetorical Purpose

O. *Why did the author make a reference to a 'dog's bark'?*

1. *To demonstrate a sort of memory*
2. *To demonstrate a type of interruption*
3. *To contrast another loud sound, such as a doorbell*
4. *To demonstrate that dogs have superior memories than people*

Reference

P. *In the last paragraph, the word 'it' relates to:*

1. *STM*
2. *data*
3. *encoding*
4. *semantics*

Sentence Simplification

Q. *Which of the following sentences from the passage better communicates the relevant information in the emphasized sentence? Incorrect answer selections exclude important information or alter its meaning.*

1. *If a memory hasn't been used in a long time, it can be recalled by prompting.*
2. *Prompting is the simplest method for retrieving short-term memory after a long period of time.*
3. *Because of regular cues, it is simpler to recall short-term memories than long-term memories.*
4. *It is simple to recall a long-term memory that is frequently utilized, whereas forgotten memories frequently require prompting.*

Prose Summary

R. *A synopsis of the paragraph is given below with an introduction phrase. Select the THREE answer options that include the most important ideas from the passage to complete the summary. Some sentences don't fit in the summary since they contain ideas that aren't stated in the passage or are simply minor points.*

Short-term memory is a part of the brain that stores information that a person might need in the near future (STM).

- 1. Assigning meaning to data makes retrieval easier for the brain.***
- 2. The majority of people can only recall numbers for a little period of time.***
- 3. Extensive rehearsal is thought to be ineffective compared to rote rehearsal.***
- 4. Because of the possibility of interruptions, certain remembering techniques fail.***
- 5. Many psychologists agree that the STM can only store a limited quantity of data at any given time.***