

TOEFL Prep 22

An introductory sentence for a brief summary of the article is provided below. Select three answer choices that express the most important ideas in the passage.

Memory provides an imperfect record of events.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Choices:

- a. People purposefully present a slanted version of events.
- b. Memories can be altered at any point in memory creation.
- c. People naturally cannot recall everything they observe.
- d. Memories are an indisputable source of fact.
3. Time and emotion contribute to memory degradation.
- f. Past occurrences often displace current memories.

Match the vocabulary words from the homework with their opposites.

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| 1. degrade | a. stay out of a dispute |
| 2. anomaly | b. improve |
| 3. recede | c. questionable |
| 4. intervene | d. norm |
| 5. indisputable | e. come forward |

Circle the best word.

1. A huge (anomaly/gap) between the wealthy and the working class often leads to social unrest.
2. The new computers enable us to (intervene/ retrieve) information more quickly.
3. Although she wasn't qualified for the job, she (indisputably/ intuitively) felt that she should apply.
4. A good mediator (intervenes/ degrades) only as much as necessary to settle a dispute between the parties.

What word from the reading selection is another form of the word below?

distort = _____

retrieve = _____

perceive = _____

acquire = _____

observation = _____

intervene = _____

Speaking Practice. Prepare for 15 seconds then speak for 45 seconds on one of these topics.

Question One

1. Who is your best friend? Describe this person and say why he/she is your best friend.
2. What is your favorite place to visit on weekends? Describe it and explain why it is your favorite place to go.
3. What is your happiest childhood memory? Describe it and give reasons to explain why it is your happiest memory.
4. What is your most important possession? Describe it and say why it is important.
5. Talk about a person in your life who has inspired you. Describe the person and explain why you found him/her inspirational.

Question Two

6. Some people think it is more fun to spend time with friends in restaurants or cafés. Others think it is more fun to spend time with friends at home. Which do you think is better? Explain why.

7. Do you prefer long-term trips or short-term trips? Use details and examples to support your explanation.
8. Do you prefer indoor activities or outdoor activities? Use details and examples to support your explanation.
9. Do you prefer to study alone or with friends?

Practicing Reading Test Skills- Recognizing Paraphrases and Identifying information NOT stated

The discoverers of these arcs think they are actually optical illusions created by light that has been bent by the immense gravitational pull of a massive galaxy. The arcs are probably formed when the light from a distant galaxy is bent by the gravitational pull of another, less distant, intervening galaxy. Even though such light-bending galaxies contain billions of stars, they do not contain enough visible ones that alone could exert the pull needed to create a blue arc. It has been theorized that there must be huge amounts of invisible of “dark” matter within these galaxies.

1. Which of the sentences below expresses the essential information in the underlined sentence.

- a- Billions of stars are contained in the galaxies, which alone could exert the pull needed to create a blue arc.
- b- Those galaxies that cause light to bend into a blue arc do not have enough visible stars to exert such a pull.
- c- The light-bending galaxies contain billions of visible and invisible stars that exert enough pull to cause a blue arc.
- d- Since the light-bending galaxies don't contain enough visible stars to exert the pull needed to create a blue arc, dark matter is considered a possibility.

2. All of the following are mentioned in the paragraph as factors in the blue arc phenomenon EXCEPT:

- a- the light being bent by the gravitational pull of galaxies
- b- the light coming from a distant galaxy and bent by a closer one
- c- the amount of gravity needed being explained by dark matter theory
- d- the light-bending dark matter existing in such distant intervening galaxies

Article from last week's homework

Like other functions of the human mind, perception and memory are imperfect. When we tell a story about something that we witnessed, we may intuitively believe that our recollection is accurate. However, several factors bias our memories of events. To study this anomaly, let us look at the three steps of memory creation: acquisition of memory, storing of memory, and retrieval. At every stage of memory formation, distortion can occur. At the first stage, acquisition of memory, events are perceived and bits of information are prepared for storage in the brain. However, it is impossible for us to remember every single thing we observe. Through processes that are both conscious and unconscious, people determine which details they will focus on.

In its second stage, storage, memories can become further distorted. Over time, our memories degrade, as we forget portions of events. To compensate, we may even creatively fill in the gap created by the recession of long-term memory. Additionally, an individual's memory can be altered during the storage stage by intervening occurrences, which can be subconsciously combined with previously stored memories. Last but not least, we search our memory to locate information. During recall, emotion also seems to play a part in memory distortion. In sum, our memories may not be the indisputable source of information that we would like them to be.