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The Reading Test

- ▶ 60 minutes
- ▶ 40 questions
- ▶ Three texts
- ▶ Total length between 2,000 and 2,750 words



Pre-reading task: guessing new vocabulary

Entertainment and films are common topics in the IELTS test. The following movie-related vocabulary items were all taken from the article and have been highlighted in the text. Find each word in the article, determine its meaning from context and match it to its definition below.

Movie vocabulary	Definitions
1. Critic	A. The showing of a film
2. Saga	B. A dangerous action scene
3. Screening	C. A very rich or powerful person
4. Applause	D. A feeling of excitement
5. Stunt	E. A person who reviews films
6. Sleek	F. A heroic story
7. Mogul	G. Clapping after a film or a performance
8. A buzz	H. Professionally made

Question 1: Generating an overall picture

In order to get a general idea of the text, read the title, the first paragraph and the first line of each paragraph. Do not worry if there are words or expressions you do not understand. Then decide which answer (A-D) best describes the overall topic.

- A. Movie set to break box office records
- B. *Indiana Jones* better than ever
- C. Latest film receives mixed reviews
- D. Film festival promotes film

Questions 2-6: true/false/not given

To answer these questions, locate the section of the article that deals with the question. Read it carefully. If the text agrees with the statement, answer "true." If it says the opposite and contradicts the statement, answer "false." Answer "not given" if the text does not clearly say whether the statement is true or false. Remember, a not given answer may be true in real life, but it is not clearly mentioned in the text. The questions will usually appear in the same order as the answers in the article.

Example: The latest *Indiana Jones* movie received louder applause than the earlier films. Not given

2. This is the first *Indiana Jones* film in almost 20 years. ____
3. The *Indiana Jones* film received a better reaction at the film festival than Woody Allen's latest film. ____
4. The story is set in Africa. ____
5. Ford injured himself while filming action scenes. ____
6. The filmmakers hope for more than US\$500 million in revenue. ____

Questions 7-10: matching opinions

For this type of task, you have to match a list of opinions to the people or sources quoted in the article.

- Scan the article to find the people and sources that are mentioned.
- Carefully re-read what they say.
- Think about what their opinions are.
- Match the statements in the task to the person or source that has the same point of view.

Remember that the questions will often use different vocabulary from the article.

Look at the following list of people and sources quoted in the article. Match each statement to one of them.

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 7. Harrison Ford's appearance is still great. ____ | A. Kirk Honeycutt |
| 8. Harrison Ford should retire, despite some good scenes. ____ | B. The <i>Guardian</i> |
| 9. There is too much action, and the characters lack charm. ____ | C. The <i>Los Angeles Times</i> |
| 10. It is one of the better <i>Indiana Jones</i> films. ____ | D. <i>Time Magazine</i> |

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READING TEST

CREDIT: HARRY HAYNES, THE BRITISH COUNCIL, TAIPEI

In true heroic tradition, 'Indiana Jones' loved and lashed

1. *Indiana Jones* received a hero's acclaim from the public at his first perilous outing at the Cannes film festival, but some critics had the knives out for the latest episode in the saga. Movie-goers at the red-carpet gala world premiere last Sunday rose to their feet to applaud the fourth installment in the adventure series and the first in 19 years: *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull*. But influential industry magazine the *Hollywood Reporter* gave it a lashing. "A wearying onslaught of action and effects gives *Indy* little chance to charm as he did of old," it said.
2. Film industry executives who daily attend the gala screenings described the public response as warm, though short of the applause a couple of nights previously for Woody Allen's latest film, *Vicky Cristina Barcelona*. And as critics pondered whether Harrison Ford, now 65, was too old for the role, thousands of fans waited hours in the sun to cheer the return after 19 years of the whip-cracking archaeologist adventurer.
3. At an early press preview, 2,000 members of the media gathered in Cannes gave the US\$185 million movie a friendly round of applause. "The world can rest easy," said film industry magazine *Variety*. "The old magic still works ... Mission accomplished."
4. Set in the Cold War of the late 1950s, the two-hour movie sees its swashbuckling archaeologist hero racing against Soviet agents to recover a mysterious pre-Colombian skull in the wilds of Peru. But neither the storyline nor the acting were to *Hollywood Reporter's* Kirk Honeycutt's taste. The sequel to the three *Indy* movies of the 1980s was more like a sequel to "Close Encounters of the Third Type", he complained. The story was swamped in stunts, the characters were charmless, it lacked wit and romance. "This film feels like work, whether it's poor Harrison Ford straining to keep pace with his younger self ... or thrill-ride acrobatics that have only scant connection to the plot."
5. London's *Daily Telegraph* critic David Gritten said Ford "doesn't wear the fedora with quite the same jaunty angle, his bullwhip doesn't crack as smartly." And the *Guardian* in London said, "some nice moments and everything is good-natured enough. But this is a moment for Harrison Ford to hang up the hat."
6. The *Los Angeles Times* differed, saying fears of a geriatric addition to the *Indiana Jones* franchise were unfounded. "It turns out it's one of the good ones, and everyone involved can breathe a sigh of relief," it said.
7. "Smart, Sleek, Familiar," said *Time Magazine's* online edition. "Ford looks just fine, his chest skin tanned to a rich Corinthian leather; he's still lithe on his feet, and can deliver a wisecrack as sharp as a whipcrack," it said.
8. Ford insisted on doing his own stunts, saying audiences could tell the difference between an actor and a stunt double. "It needs to be an emotional event, like every moment on screen needs to be invested with real emotion, or pretend emotion," he told reporters.
9. The question for Hollywood moguls Steven Spielberg and George Lucas is whether the movie will gross over US\$500 million worldwide, given its hefty budget and the US\$150 million spent on marketing.
10. Whatever the reviews, the film has generated a buzz. London's *The Times* labeled it "pure gold". "Spielberg's most remarkable achievement is to retain most of the old-fashioned virtues of the original franchise," James Christopher said. "Welcome back, *Indy*. Lord knows we've missed you."



Answers:

- Pre-reading task**
1. E, 2. F, 3. A, 4. G, 5. B, 6. H, 7. C, 8. D
- True/false/not given:**
1. True, paragraph one
2. True, paragraph one
3. True, paragraph one
4. False, paragraph two
5. Not given, paragraph four
6. True, paragraph nine
- Matching opinions:**
7. D, 8. B, 9. A, 10. C
- Overall picture**
1. C
paragraph eight
2. F
paragraph four