

OVERVIEW

Cloze reading is an instructional strategy where students are required to fill in the blanks within a passage with correct words from a word bank. This is to assess students' instant knowledge of the topic or their ability to use semantic cues, delete content words which carry meaning, such as nouns, main verbs, adjectives, and adverbs.

To approach a summary cloze question, students have to go through the following steps:

- To understand the general meaning of the summary
- To scan for the correct information in the text
- To be able to identify synonyms and paraphrases
- To analyze the blank and the words around it so as to use a suitable word form for the blank

STEPS

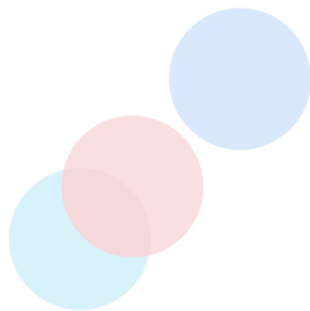
1. Read the question carefully (do not go back to the original text yet)
2. Locate keywords / synonyms in the paragraph → Circle / highlight them
3. Ask yourself: what is the part of speech (詞性) of the word I'm looking for? Is it a noun (名詞) / verb (動詞) / adjective (形容詞) / adverb (副詞) / pronoun (代詞) / preposition (介詞) etc.?
4. Go back to the original text. Locate the answer with the help of keywords you just circle / highlight in the question

Type 1: Fill In The Blank

Students are often asked to complete a rewritten sentence or a paragraph by using ONE word or more taken from stated paragraphs without making any changes.

Tips and Strategies

- The rewritten paragraphs may not be in the exact order as the stated paragraphs
- The grammatical sentence structures are usually different, but the meaning or idea remains the same
- Students are required to find the most accurate word(s)
- Hyphenated or contracted words function as ONE word
- Remember to use the words from the stated paragraphs/given texts



Original Passage 1

(modified from <https://www.scmp.com/yp/discover/news/hong-kong/article/3132698/canto-pop-boy-band-mirror-kicks-concert-series-one-all> for educational purposes only)

[1] Hong Kong boy group, Mirror, successfully kicked off their second live concert in a six-day series titled “One & All Live” in May, with fans arriving hours before the concert began.

[2] They started by performing their latest single, Warrior, which is about focusing on the future, rather than holding onto old values. The concept of the song reads, “Old people who are stuck in the past are not able to understand the new generation.” The song received rave reviews about its take on creating something new, instead of being stuck mourning the city’s music of the past. It also emphasises staying authentic even in the worst of times.

Complete the following sentence using ONE word taken from the above passage.

The cultural sensation, Mirror, a Hong Kong Cantopop music boy group,

- (i)** their live concert with their new song,
- (ii)**, spreading a positive message that one should stay
- (iii)** in hard times.

Original Passage 2

(modified from <https://publicism.info/history/ghostland/1.html> for educational purposes only)

My wife and I began searching for a house in Los Angeles in 2008, precisely when the real estate market was crashing. There were the hoarding houses: homes we couldn't enter because of the high stacks of magazines and newspapers or other safety hazards, where we could only peer in through the windows. Far more common, though, were the do-it-yourself homes. Dozens of bungalows in East Hollywood were built as seven-hundred-square-foot cottages, and, over time, extra bedrooms were added, garages converted into craft rooms, pet crawl spaces enlarged into dens. Living rooms were constructed behind existing bedrooms, so an exterior window would look from one room to the next; thousand-square-foot homes somehow contained four or five bedrooms, each one barely more than a closet cut from some once-sane layout; bathrooms sat in the middle of kitchens; bedrooms without windows were built into the sides of hills; doors on a second floor opened into empty air. The changes brought a vertiginous effect: you walked into a room and felt a sense of unease.

Complete the following paragraph by using words taken from the above passage. Fill in each blank with ONE word only.

The writer and his wife had been searching for a place to live in Los Angeles. The houses there were host to many unpermitted modifications that the couple felt **(i)** For example, inside the bungalows, **(ii)** were usually enlarged into dens; craft rooms were originally converted from **(iii)** It was far more common for the couple to find **(iv)** Another home was **(v)** that did not usually allow others to go in because of safety hazard.

Type 2: Complete A Summary ---

What makes it different from the previous type is that students are mostly required to fill in the blank with or without specific word limits.

What students need to be aware of ...

- The form of the rewritten paragraph (whether it is in the form of a flow chart / table / dialogues, etc)
- The answers may be found in the whole passage, instead of one or two paragraphs



Original Passage 3

(modified from <https://publicism.info/education/paying/7.html> for educational purposes only)

Paying for College Without Going Broke

[1] If a family is on a very tight budget, a good way to finance a four-year college education is to start with a two-year college education. A student with a good academic record at a community college (perhaps earned while still living at home) can then transfer to a slightly more expensive state college for two more years to earn a BA. The total cost would be only a fraction of the cost of a private college, and still thousands of dollars less than that of a four-year program at the state college.

[2] If a student really has their heart set on a particular private college but the family cannot afford the costs of four years' tuition, there is another option: The student could go to a public college for the first two years and then transfer into the private school. The student will get a private college degree at a much more affordable price.

[3] Extending the previous strategy, a student could attend an in-state public university during all four of the undergraduate years, and then go to a top-of-the-line private graduate school. The undergraduate savings would be huge, but again, whether the student attends a private or a public undergraduate college, a compelling academic record is always very important to ensure acceptance.

Complete the following sentence using words taken from the above passage. Use a maximum of **3** words.

Transfer Option 1	It is advised that students with financial difficulty can begin with a (i) before a (ii)
Transfer Option 2	However financially incapable they are, students who aim for a private college can attend a (iii) first and then transfer to the private one once they can afford the tuition fee.
Transfer Option 3	It is also a practical way to consider a four-year (iv) After that, they can consider applying for a (v) school.
To top it all off, any students who wish to cut down on the price as much as possible or wish to enter a desired university need a (vi)	



Type 3: Fill In The Blank And Make Sure The Answers Are Grammatically Correct

In the instruction, when we see the line “Answers should be grammatically correct.”, we often need to change the part of speech in some of our answers. This is our Type 3. More often than not, students are asked to fill in ONE word only.

Students need to be aware of the possible change in ...

- Part of speech
- Singular Noun or Plural Noun
E.g. One of the + noun (+s / es); is → singular noun ; are → plural noun
- Tenses or Voices
- Comparatives



Original Passage 4

(modified from <https://wwf.panda.org/?75340/A-numbers-game-Managing-elephants-in-southern-Africa> for educational purposes only)

[1] Kruger National Park covers an area of some 20,000km² – about half the size of Switzerland – but it still doesn't seem big enough to accommodate a growing elephant population. Unlike many populations in Africa which remain endangered as a result of years of poaching and habitat loss, elephants in Kruger are growing at a rapid rate. These wild elephants are entrapped in the middle of approaching development because the increasing numbers of elephants are causing major changes to the vegetation of the park, destroying trees and reducing habitat available for other wildlife species. Okonkwo, a plantation owner, who is tired of having to foot the bill for the damage, is calling the Department of Wildlife and National Parks to remove the elephants.

[2] In the course of their foraging, elephants often strip the bark of trees of such important tall tree species – where birds of prey often make their nests – and marulas, whose fruit has an extremely high vitamin C content. Rare plant species, such as the lalla palm, are also being damaged. Despite being a harmless mammal, it can also be a concern that they can be harmful as they are able to eliminate entire communities of these valuable trees in a very short amount of time.

Based on the information from the text, complete the paragraph by using ONE word to fill in each blank. Answers should be grammatically correct.

It seems that elephants in Kruger are growing **(i)**
(ii) in the middle of development, the wild elephants often
(iii) a large area of crops. Tired of paying for the loss,
(iv) usually call the government department
for the **(v)** of elephants. The bark of trees is usually
(vi) by the elephants, which also **(vii)**
rare plant species. Elephants are in fact **(viii)**
than they look. They are increasing pressure on current valuable tree populations.



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