

TOEFL Reading Practice Test: Vampire Bats!!!

You will read an academic passage. You should answer each question based on what is stated or implied in the passage. You have 10 minutes to complete this test (including the reading of the passages).

Questions 1- 10

Another type of mammal is the Vampire bat, which is ordinary looking and weighs about one ounce and with a body the size of an adult's thumb. They are 2 3/4 inches in length and have an 8 inch wingspan. Their colonies are quite structured with strong social bonds, grooming each other and recognizing their fellows with voice and smell. The structure is imperative to their survival, as there are many nights when a bat may not find a host to feed on. At that point, the hungry bats are fed from others through a process of regurgitation. In the wild, vampire bats live to about 9 years old, but can reach 20 years in captivity. Vampire bats mate all year round and usually have only one offspring per year. Gestation is 6-8 months in length.

Bats are the only true flying mammals, with about 925 different species identified. Of all these species, only the common vampire bat is able to maneuver on the ground as well as in the air. Vampire bats can move side to side and backward, similar to a spider. Instead of taking off in flight from the ground, these bats actually launch themselves into the air with powerful pectoral muscles. The force comes from the bat extending its hind knees, leaning forward and using its forelimbs. The bat also invokes its triceps muscle and very long thumb. While the jump only takes about 30 milliseconds, the bat catapults itself about 4 feet into the air. Although a few other species of bats move readily on the ground and some take off from the ground, no other species possess the extreme terrestrial agility and jumping ability of *Desmodus*. Once in the air, the transition into flight is basically one fluid motion. Since the vampire bat feeds at ground level, their agility and fast take-off is an amazing advantage.

Feeding on the blood of animals like cows, pigs, and horses, the vampire bat requires about two tablespoons of blood each day. Locating their prey is a combination of smell, sound, echolocation, and possibly heat. While they do not actually suck blood from their host, they make a small incision and lap up the blood. Since they do not chew their food, they have fewer teeth of any other bat. They generally approach their prey from the ground.

They have heat sensors on their noseleaf for locating capillary-rich areas of the skin; modified canines for fur clipping; long, sharp incisors for painlessly opening a wound; anticoagulants to prevent clotting; and a grooved tongue to help move blood rapidly to the mouth. While the bat may consume up to 60% of its body weight in blood and it only needs the red blood cells, it will begin excreting plasma before its meal is over. With a specialized stomach and kidneys, the vampire rapidly removes the plasma as it may take up to twenty minutes to the bat to finish its meal. Due to length of time and the invasive nature of its feeding, it is clear the vampire bat needs its deftness and agility to be successful. Observations of *Desmodus* scrambling over the backs and necks of animals prior to feeding or to avoid movements of the host animal to brush them off, and running or hopping about on the ground while feeding, illustrate the adaptive value of this effective terrestrial locomotion.

Holzman, B. "The Biogeography of Vampire Bat (*Desmodus rotundas*). Fall 1999.
<http://bss.sfsu.edu/geog/bholzman/courses/fall99projects/vampire.htm> (August 17, 2001)

1. With what topic is this passage primarily concerned?
 - Bats.
 - Vampire bats.
 - Flying mammals.
 - Feeding habits of mammals.

2. The passage preceding this passage most likely discussed
 - Another type of mammal.
 - Vampire bats.
 - Other kinds of bats.
 - True flying mammals.

3. What can be inferred about a Vampire bat in captivity?
 - It cannot survive to its inherently wild instincts.
 - It can live twice as long as a bat in the wild.
 - It can live half as long as a bat in the wild.
 - It has about the same lifespan as a bat in the wild.

4. In what way is a Vampire bat similar to a spider?
 - Its ground movements.
 - Its powerful pectoral muscles.
 - Its very long thumb.
 - Its ability to fly.

5. Other than the common Vampire bat, what is true about most bats?
 - Most cannot fly.
 - They have poor jumping abilities.
 - They are not true flying mammals.
 - They do not eat spiders.

6. "Agility" in paragraph two is the same in meaning as
- Eating excessively.
 - Terrestrial awkwardness.
 - Moving quickly.
 - Sluggish in nature.
7. "Lap up" in paragraph is the same in meaning as
- Suck.
 - Lick.
 - Eat.
 - Snort.
8. What can be inferred about most bats?
- They have more teeth than the Vampire bat.
 - Most do not chew their food.
 - They eat only liquid foods.
 - Like the Vampire bat, other bats also other drink blood.
9. For what purpose does a Vampire bat have heat sensors?
- To prevent clotting.
 - To remove plasma.
 - To help the bat find food.
 - To allow the bat to be more agile.
10. Approximately how long does a bat feed?
- A little more than twenty minutes.
 - About one hour.
 - Less than thirty minutes.
 - Up to a dozen minutes.

Answers

1. (# 2) Main idea
2. (# 1) Transition
3. (# 2) Implied Detail
4. (# 1) Detail
5. (# 2) Detail
6. (# 3) Vocabulary
7. (# 2) Vocabulary
8. (# 1) Implied Detail
9. (# 3) Detail
10. (# 3) Detail