

True / False / Not Given

A decision guide for comparing meaning - not just matching words.

The key question is simple: **Can you prove the statement from the passage?**

TRUE	FALSE	NOT GIVEN
The statement has the same meaning as the passage.	The passage gives information that contradicts the statement.	The passage does not tell you enough to decide.

Use this decision path

1	Find the relevant part of the passage.
2	Read the exact claim in the statement. Notice words about time, quantity, frequency and cause.
3	Compare the meanings - not the individual words.
4	Same meaning = TRUE • Opposite meaning = FALSE • Cannot decide = NOT GIVEN

Watch for these common traps

Same keyword ≠ TRUE The passage can use the same words but make a different claim.	Different wording ≠ FALSE Synonyms and paraphrases can express the same meaning.
One opposite detail = FALSE If the passage directly gives the opposite information, it is not NOT GIVEN.	Do not use outside knowledge Only the information in the passage counts.

Worked example

PASSAGE City libraries in Norford introduced evening opening on Thursdays in 2024. The change was designed mainly for commuters, although students also use the later hours. The library has not yet decided whether to extend the scheme to weekends.

Libraries in Norford stay open later on Thursdays.	TRUE	Same meaning.
The evening opening was introduced mainly for students.	FALSE	The passage says mainly for commuters.
The library plans to open later on Saturdays next year.	NOT GIVEN	No weekend decision has been made.

Try the decision process

Find the evidence first. Then decide: TRUE, FALSE or NOT GIVEN.

PRACTICE PASSAGE Researchers at a coastal university tested three types of packaging made from plant fibres. All three broke down faster than conventional plastic in laboratory conditions. However, the researchers warned that results outdoors might be different because temperature and moisture vary. The study did not compare the cost of producing the materials.

Questions

1. All three plant-fibre materials broke down faster than conventional plastic in the laboratory.	T / F / NG
2. The researchers said outdoor conditions would always produce the same results as the laboratory.	T / F / NG
3. The plant-fibre packaging was cheaper to produce than conventional plastic.	T / F / NG
4. Temperature and moisture can vary outdoors.	T / F / NG
5. The researchers tested more than three types of plant-fibre packaging.	T / F / NG

Before you choose an answer

1	2	3	4
What is the exact claim?	Where is the matching passage information?	Same, opposite or unanswered?	Choose only from the passage.

Answer check

1	TRUE	The passage says all three broke down faster in laboratory conditions.
2	FALSE	The researchers warned that outdoor results might be different.
3	NOT GIVEN	The study did not compare production cost.
4	TRUE	The passage says temperature and moisture vary outdoors.
5	FALSE	The passage says three types were tested.

Reflect

☐ Did I compare meaning rather than keywords?	☐ Did I check every important detail in the statement?
☐ Did I avoid guessing from my own knowledge?	☐ Can I point to evidence for every TRUE or FALSE answer?

Final reminder: NOT GIVEN does not mean 'probably false'. It means the passage does not provide enough information to decide.