

The T/F/NG are difficult questions which require you to locate the information and then decide if the information in the statement is the same, opposite or not given in the passage. These questions come regularly in IELTS reading so the more practice you have the better.

Skim read the passage below and then spend time reading the statements in each question. The more time you spend preparing the questions with paraphrases and paying attention to the information given, the easier it will be to get the right answer. Remember, the answers come in order.

Spam Text Messages in China

SPAM, as every user of mobile phones in China is aware to their intense annoyance, is a roaring business in China. Its delivery-men drive through residential neighbourhoods in “text-messaging cars”, with illegal but easy-to-buy gadgetry they use to hijack links between mobile-phone users and nearby communications masts. They then target the numbers they harvest, blasting them with spam text messages before driving away. Mobile-phone users usually see only the wearisome results: another sprinkling of spam messages offering deals on flats, investment advice and dodgy receipts for tax purposes.

Chinese mobile-users get more spam text messages than their counterparts almost anywhere else in the world. They received more than 300 billion of them in 2013, or close to one a day for each person using a mobile phone. Users in bigger markets like Beijing and Shanghai receive two a day, or more than 700 annually, accounting for perhaps one-fifth to one-third of all texts. Americans, by comparison, received an estimated 4.5 billion junk messages in 2011, or fewer than 20 per mobile-user for the year –out of a total of more than two trillion text messages sent.

In China, by contrast, the three largest mobile operators sell special numbers that start with the digits 106. These are exempt from rules limiting the number of messages that can be sent daily by a normal account. Regulators allow them to be used for non-commercial purposes, such as by companies to send messages to staff. But Tencent Mobile Security Lab, a software-security firm, found last year that 55% of mobile spam reported by users came from 106 numbers. After a documentary last year on these accounts by Chinese state television, China Mobile, one of the biggest carriers, admitted there were “loopholes and inadequacies” and said it would work to “hold people accountable”. The broadcaster estimated that the big three carriers earned hundreds of millions of dollars a year from spam text messages. ([The economist](#), November 2014)

Questions 1-6

Decide if the following questions are true, false or not given.

True = the statement matches the information in the passage

False = the statement contradicts the information in the passage

Not Given = the information is not found in the passage

1. The men delivering spam text messages in China use technology which is illegal and cannot be bought readily.
2. Customer numbers are accessed by hacking into users phones.
3. Mobile phone owners in Beijing and Shanghai receive over 700 spam texts in a year.
4. America received 4.5 billion junk texts which was the least amount worldwide in 2011.
5. Over half of all reported junk texts were sent from 106 numbers according to Tencent Mobile Security Lab.
6. The three largest mobile operators make large amounts of money from junk text messaging.

^ Answers

1. False (the gadgetry – technology – is easy-to-buy)
2. False (numbers are accessed through a link which is hacked between the phones and the communication mast)
3. True
4. Not Given (there is no information given about how these figures compare to the rest of the world)
5. True (55% = over half)
6. True (the big three carriers is a paraphrase for the 3 largest mobile operators)

^ Vocabulary

- intense = strong / extreme
- roaring business = successful business / booming business
- residential = suburban
- gadget = device
- harvest information = collect / gather
- sprinkling = smattering
- counterparts = equals / colleagues
- spam messages = junk messages
- digits = numbers / numerals