

# **TOEFL READING**

## **SENTENCE SIMPLIFICATION QUESTIONS**

## General info:

- Your job: to choose a sentence that has the same essential meaning as a sentence that occurs in the passage.

## How to recognize:

Which of the following best expresses the essential information in the highlighted sentence?

*Incorrect* answer choices **change the meaning** in important ways or **leave out essential information**.

## Tips and tricks:

1. Read the sentence carefully and remember the facts. Try to simplify it by yourself;
2. Break the sentence down into meaningful parts by looking for punctuation and transition expressions. Compare with each answer choice;
3. Eliminate incorrect choices: leave out important information or contradict the passage

“If a pot has no bottom or has large openings in its sides, it could hardly be considered a container in any traditional sense. **Since the laws of physics, not some arbitrary decision, have determined the general form of applied-art objects, they follow basic patterns, so much so that functional forms can vary only within certain limits.** Buildings without roofs, for example, are unusual because they depart from the norm. However, not all functional objects are exactly alike; that is why we recognize a Shang Dynasty vase as being different from an Inca vase. What varies is not the basic form but the incidental details that do not obstruct the object’s primary function . . .”

**Since the laws of physics, not some arbitrary decision, have determined the general form of applied-art objects, they follow basic patterns, so much so that functional forms can vary only within certain limits.**

Which of the following best expresses the essential information in the highlighted sentence? Incorrect answer choices change the meaning in important ways or leave out essential information.

- A.** Functional applied-art objects cannot vary much from the basic patterns determined by the laws of physics.
- B.** The function of applied-art objects is determined by basic patterns in the laws of physics.
- C.** Since functional applied-art objects vary only within certain limits, arbitrary decisions cannot have determined their general form.
- D.** The general form of applied-art objects is limited by some arbitrary decision that is not determined by the laws of physics.

**Since the laws of physics, not some arbitrary decision, have determined the general form of applied-art objects, they follow basic patterns, so much so that functional forms can vary only within certain limits.**

- **D.** The general form of applied-art objects is limited by some arbitrary decision that is not determined by the laws of physics. – **X:** *changes the meaning of the sentence to its opposite; says that the form of functional objects is arbitrary*
- **B.** The function of applied-art objects is determined by basic patterns in the laws of physics. – **X:** *changes the meaning: says that the functions of applied-art objects are determined by physical laws.*
- **C.** Since functional applied-art objects vary only within certain limits, arbitrary decisions cannot have determined their general form. – **X:** *leaves out an important idea: does not say that it is physical laws that determine basic form.*
- **A:** Functional applied-art objects cannot vary much from the basic patterns determined by the laws of physics. – **V**