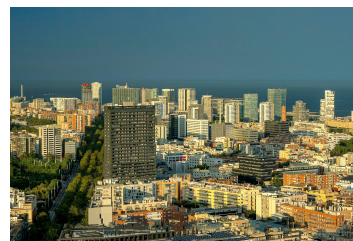


C1 Advanced Reading Part 5 - Reading for inference

A. Discuss the questions with a partner.

1. What benefits and problems can tourism bring to a city such as Barcelona?
2. Should residents' everyday needs take priority over visitors' experiences? Where would you draw the line?



B. Tick the three questions that ask you to infer an answer.

Inference means using clues to work out something the writer suggests without stating it directly.

- ☐ 1. What equipment did the writer replace?
- ☐ 2. What does the writer's response to praise suggest about her attitude to success?
- ☐ 3. What reason does the writer explicitly give for introducing brunch?
- ☐ 4. What can we infer about a customer's feelings from his behaviour?
- ☐ 5. Which features of the bar were changed?
- ☐ 6. What does the writer's use of 'untouched' suggest about her attitude?

C. Read the coloured sentences on page 2 and answer question 1.

Highlights: [1] admiration · [2] the recommendation · [3] the accountant.

1. What does the writer's account of the bar's growing popularity suggest about her feelings?

Option	Statement	Highlight(s)
A	She regards visitors' enthusiasm as compensation for the disruption they cause.	
B	She is more comfortable acknowledging visitors' inconvenience than her dependence on them.	
C	She expects the financial improvements to disappear once visitors' interest moves elsewhere.	
D	She finds visitors' praise less convincing than her accountant's approval of the business.	

A distractor borrows a real detail from the text but changes, adds to or misreads its meaning.

Match each option to the numbered highlights. Explain why it is supported or rejected.

A Place at the Counter

When I took over a shabby little bar in Barcelona, my ambitions were modest enough to be mistaken for a lack of them. What I wanted was the comforting clatter of cups, heated arguments about football and customers who, having discovered which stool wobbled, knew to avoid it. Coffee at the counter, substantial sandwiches, an unpretentious lunch: that would do nicely. Having grown up nearby, I fancied earning my living somewhere woven into the untidy fabric of lives with which mine had long overlapped. My accountant, confronted with this sentimental business plan, looked as though she'd swallowed a lemon. Apparently, usefulness wasn't much of a selling point. Clearly, she'd never needed somewhere to sit.

The visitors trickled in, only to descend later with the enthusiasm of pilgrims following an online recommendation.^[1]

Their admiration was flattering, if faintly ridiculous: my sandwiches were suddenly worthy of elaborate photographs. Had admiration been all they brought, I might have been less accommodating. As it was, the wheezing refrigerator was replaced; my assistant's precarious extra hours became a proper contract.^[2] I grumbled about the queue and its cheerful obstruction of the pavement. On quieter mornings, though, my thumb kept straying to that recommendation.

^[3] Whenever my accountant congratulated me, I found myself recounting how much the old refrigerator had cost to keep running. A wretched machine. Honestly, the bills.

An English menu could hardly be objected to, being a matter of simple courtesy. Brunch, initially confined to weekends on the understanding that it was an experiment, proved sufficiently lucrative for weekdays to deserve the same consideration. I called it making better use of the kitchen. Whenever neighbours queried the prices, out came my meticulous account of soaring rent, electricity and ingredients. All impeccably accurate, all rather persuasive. Customers who paid without comment were spared the performance. Conspicuously absent from my explanation was the afternoon I'd spent investigating what visitors were prepared to fork out elsewhere. Anyone who wished to scrutinise the accounts was, I assured them, welcome to do so. Nobody took me up on it.

Jordi appeared one dreary Tuesday. So gradually had this lunchtime fixture slipped out of my routine that, by the time I noticed his absence, it had become almost unremarkable. He studied the menu twice, ordered a coffee and folded it neatly beside his cup. I explained the new dishes. He was glad things were looking up for me, he said. When I suggested his usual sandwich, his smile flickered. 'You remember that?' Of course I did. Although several stools stood vacant, he remained on his feet, repeatedly urging me to get on with whatever I had been doing. Afterwards, I couldn't recall his having asked for anything beyond the coffee. I'd done the talking; he'd supplied the reassurances.

Then a visitor pronounced the bar 'untouched', which, considering the effort that had gone into its preservation, was quite something. While she arranged her photograph, I discreetly shifted the flowers we'd bought to replace an unsightly tub of sugar packets. The weathered tiles were intact; the handwritten lunch menu had been banished for cluttering the view. The more faithfully we preserved our distinctive character, the more work it took to remove anything liable to spoil its appearance. Perhaps Jordi, who'd never thought to photograph the wall, had failed to appreciate the place properly. Poor chap. All those lunches, and he'd somehow missed the point.

One hectic Saturday, an elderly neighbour squeezed past the queue to ask whether I'd keep a spare key for her daughter. A waiting couple graciously stepped aside. My assistant, anxious to prevent a bottleneck, enquired whether the woman wanted a table. Perfectly civil; perfectly understandable. The neighbour apologised and retreated, still clutching the key. Later, the couple lingered over lunch, asking about the building's history. I enjoyed their curiosity and found myself adding details I'd almost forgotten. When we closed, I opened the drawer that had once housed the neighbours' spare keys. Laminated menus, neatly stacked. Much tidier, admittedly.

However sympathetic I am to campaigns to curb tourism, I find it hard to watch individual visitors bear the brunt of the resentment. That couple had been lovely. To pretend their contribution to the wage bill hadn't mattered would have been another convenient way of telling half the story. At a neighbourhood meeting, I enthusiastically supported protecting local businesses, before enquiring whether establishments like mine might qualify for assistance if visitor numbers dwindled. Seemed fair enough. The woman beside me merely asked what I meant by 'like mine'. I became fascinated by the agenda.

I still want the council to make Barcelona a city its residents can comfortably inhabit. What I'm less inclined to do now is describe my bar as an innocent casualty, awaiting rescue from circumstances beyond my control. Whatever form any grand policy eventually takes, there are smaller decisions I needn't wait for permission to make. I've drawn up a cheaper lunch menu, having worked out how substantial a dent it would make in my takings. It's pinned beside the staff timetable, a rather fetching little declaration of intent. Customers can't see it from the counter.

D. Read the article and answer questions 2–6.

For each answer, underline supporting evidence and explain the inference you made.

2. What is suggested by the writer's explanations to neighbours about her prices?

- A.** She sees their concern as a request to examine how she manages the accounts.
- B.** She wants them to recognise that the new menu has reduced her financial security.
- C.** She wants the increases to appear unavoidable rather than partly a commercial choice.
- D.** She thinks they need help understanding the benefits of using the kitchen more efficiently.

3. Jordi's behaviour during his visit suggests that he

- A.** considers the writer's offer an attempt to make up for an unreasonable price.
- B.** would prefer to discuss the bar's changes when the writer has less work to do.
- C.** feels that his old relationship with the writer is unaffected by the changes to the menu.
- D.** feels less entitled than before to take up space and make demands in the bar.

4. What is implied by the writer's remark that Jordi may have 'failed to appreciate the place properly'?

- A.** The visitors have noticed qualities of the bar that she and Jordi had underestimated.
- B.** His familiarity with the bar has prevented him from recognising its recent improvements.
- C.** His familiarity with its everyday routines has led him to overlook its visual appeal.
- D.** The features promoted as authentic matter less to him than what has been removed.

5. What does the account of the neighbour's visit with a spare key illustrate?

- A.** Visitors' interest in local history can help maintain the bar's role in the community.
- B.** A courteous approach to serving customers can still exclude other uses of the bar.
- C.** The writer's willingness to talk to visitors is making her assistant's work more difficult.
- D.** Regular customers are expecting favours that the bar is no longer equipped to provide.

6. By the end of the article, what change in the writer's position is implied?

- A.** She recognises an obligation to act herself but has yet to put a costly change into practice.
- B.** She is beginning to doubt whether reducing tourism would benefit her neighbourhood.
- C.** She has come to see financial support as a condition for changing her own business.
- D.** She now sees restoring the old menu as a way to satisfy residents while preserving her income.

E. Discuss the questions. Use details from the article to support your views.

1. Has the writer changed her views, her behaviour, or both? Support your judgement with two details from the article.
2. Has the article changed your answer to A2? Explain one benefit and one cost of the approach you now favour.
3. Agree on one change the owner could make and one action the city could take. Who would bear the cost of each?

Answer key

A and E

Answers vary. Accept views supported by reasons and details from the article.

B

Inference: 2, 4 and 6. Explicit information: 1, 3 and 5.

The stems signal the intended reading demand. The text determines whether an answer is actually explicit or inferred.

C

1. B. Highlights 2 and 3 contrast her public complaints with private checking and her tendency to explain success through costs. Highlight 1 and the refrigerator/contract details establish the value of visitors' money.

Option	Highlight(s)	Why it is supported or rejected
A	1	Admiration alone would not secure her cooperation.
B	2 and 3	Public irritation contrasts with private checking; praise prompts explanations about costs.
C	2	Checking the recommendation does not predict that the financial improvements will disappear.
D	1 and 3	The text does not compare visitors' praise with the accountant's approval.

D

2. C. Her accurate cost figures omit deliberate benchmarking against visitor prices.

3. D. Jordi stands despite vacant stools, seems surprised to be remembered and releases her from attending to him.

4. D. The bar keeps its photographic appearance while losing everyday functions. Her criticism of Jordi is ironic.

5. B. Polite customer management still excludes a former community function. Menus have replaced neighbours' keys.

6. A. She recognises her responsibility and calculates the cost of a cheaper menu, but customers still cannot see it.

Focused classroom practice. The article and characters are fictional.