

It Feels True: **check your reading.**

Six questions on one real news article. Each uses a different reading skill, from finding a fact to judging what to trust.

READ THIS FIRST

Trump's 'forever' tariffs are kicking in for the long haul, and US consumers are footing the bill

Kent Jones, Babson College · The Conversation · August 13, 2026

<https://theconversation.com/trumps-forever-tariffs-are-kicking-in-for-the-long-haul-and-us-consumers-are-footing-the-bill-289334>



How to use it. Read the whole article first. Keep it open while you answer, the way you would at the kitchen table. The questions go roughly from easier to harder. The levels are a guide to how hard each kind of task is on the international adult literacy test, not a score. The answer key is on the last page.

DECODE LEVEL 1

1. Paragraph 14 says many of the new tariffs "will be stacked on top of one another." What does stacked mean here?

LOCATE LEVEL 1 TO 2

2. According to the Dallas Federal Reserve, what would the Fed's preferred inflation measure have been in March without tariffs, and what was it actually?

RESTATE LEVEL 2

3. In one or two sentences of your own, what is the author's main argument?

INFER LEVEL 3

4. Paragraph 8 says tariff bills go to U.S. businesses that import the goods, and paragraph 2 says the Supreme Court overturned the emergency tariffs. If those tariffs were refunded, who would you expect to get the money back?

COMPARE LEVEL 3

5. How are the new July tariffs different from the 2025 “Liberation Day” tariffs, according to the author?

EVALUATE LEVEL 4 AND UP

6. Paragraph 8 says tariff invoices are “issued by the Treasury Department.” How could you check that, and what would you find?

Answer key

1. Decode. Several different tariffs apply to the same goods at once, so their rates add together. Paragraph 15 shows it: 10% plus 10% plus a 3% base rate makes 23%.

Where to look: Paragraphs 14 and 15

2. Locate. About 2.3% at an annual rate without tariffs, compared with an actual 3.2%.

Where to look: Paragraph 9

3. Restate. The new tariffs announced in July are built to last and are added on top of older ones, so the cost to U.S. consumers will keep growing. The claim that foreigners pay is wrong, because the bill goes to the U.S. businesses that import the goods.

Where to look: Paragraphs 4, 5, 7 and 8

4. Infer. The U.S. importers who paid the bills, not the shoppers who paid higher prices. The article never says this; you have to put paragraphs 2 and 8 together. Card 6 is about the same question of who pays.

Where to look: Paragraphs 2 and 8

5. Compare. They are similar in scope and impact, but they rest on existing trade law, which the administration sees as beyond the reach of the Supreme Court's review, and most are designed to be permanent rather than temporary.

Where to look: Paragraphs 3, 4 and 18

6. Evaluate. Check U.S. Customs and Border Protection at cbp.gov. CBP, part of Homeland Security, assesses and bills the duties; the money then goes to the Treasury. The author's main point still holds, since the bill goes to the U.S. importer, but this detail is off. Also notice the sentences that begin "I believe" in paragraphs 4 and 21: those are his judgments, not reported facts.

Where to look: Paragraph 8, with paragraphs 4 and 21