Scanning

What is meant by scanning? Scanning is a fast reading technique. It's a way of reading to look for specific information in a text.

Scanning can be used to look up a phone number, read through the small ads in a newspaper, or for browsing TV schedules, timetables, lists, catalogues or web pages for information. For these tasks you don't need to read or understand every word.

Scanning is also useful when studying or looking to find specific information from a book or article quickly as there is not always time to read every word.

Hints and tips for better scanning.

1. Don't try to read every word. Instead let your eyes move quickly across the page until you find what you are looking for.

2. Use clues on the page, such as headings and titles, to help you.

3. In a dictionary or phone book, use the 'header' words to help you scan. You can find these in bold type at the top of each page.

4. If you are reading for study, start by thinking up or writing down some questions that you want to answer. Doing this can focus your mind and help you find the facts or information that you need more easily.

5. Many texts use A-Z order. These include everyday materials such as the phone book and indexes to books and catalogues.

6. There are many ways to practise scanning skills. Try looking up a favourite recipe in the index of a cookbook, search for a plumber in your local Yellow Pages, or scan web pages on the Internet to find specific information.

You can find Skillswise at http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise This factsheet is BBC Copyright



| Skillswise Rt/L1.5 |
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| Reading: Scanning worksheet 1 - questions |
| Before starting the worksheet, print out the 'Green Arrow' job advert and have it to hand. |
| 'Green Arrow' are looking for extra staff before Christmas. Scan the advert quickly to try and find the answers to these questions - remember you don't need to read every word. |
| Questions: |
| 1. When do these jobs start? |
| 2. True or false? The work will last for about a month. |
| What type of work is on offer? |
| 4. What kind of people are Green Arrow looking for? |
| 5. What shift patterns are available? |
| 6. Where is the job based? |
| True or false? The work involves travel around the UK |
| How much will you earn per hour if you are aged 18? |
| True or false? You will get paid extra for working on Saturday. |
| 10. Who should you contact at Green Arrow to get an application form? |
| 11. True or false? You can leave a message on an answering machine. |
| 12. What is the company's email address? |
| It is the 1st of November. Is there still time to apply for a job? |
| 14. True or false? The minimum age for this job is 18. |
| 15. Do you need a driving licence to apply for a job with Green Arrow? |
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