

LAB 1

Objectives:

- **Orientation**
- **Skimming and Scanning**

Ice Breaker

- Prepare a short speech to introduce yourself.
- Describe your reading habits (share how much you read, what you like to read or would like to read, how you read (any technique), why do you think reading is important)

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Introduction to Academic Reading

Academic reading often requires you to actively engage with, and critically think about the information you take in. There is a purpose behind what you're reading, and understanding this purpose frames how you interpret and use the information. Rather than passively read information, reading academic sources and information encourages you to ask questions about what you're reading, and invites you to draw connections to existing knowledge. As a university student you will be exposed to lengthy texts, some of which will contain unfamiliar terminology or complex concepts. You will be asked to directly act upon that information in some way. You will be quizzed or tested. You will be asked to debate, analyze, or critique what you read. You will need to read closely, remember the text accurately, and compare it to other texts for style and content. However, as you develop your academic skills, reading academic material will become easier.

Types of reading materials at university

- selected chapters from textbooks
- allocated weekly readings, usually from books or journals
- academic sources, such as peer-reviewed journals, reports, conference papers and theses
- discussion forums
- lecture slides, course notes and assessment criteria

Key Academic Reading Strategies

1. Skimming
2. Scanning
3. Critical Reading

SKIMMING:

“A quick hunt for the gist”

Skimming refers to reading a text quickly to get the essence, the basic overall idea, rather than concentrating on absorbing all the details. Skimming is done at a speed three to four times faster than normal reading.

People often skim when

- They have lots of material to read in a limited amount of time
- They want to see if an article, book, etc. may be of interest in their research
- They are buying books, magazines

Can you think of more reasons for why people skim texts? Do you think skimming is useful? What advantages does it have?

How to skim?

To skim an article, essay, passages, etc., you can do the following:

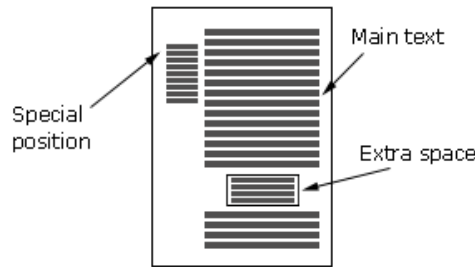
1. Read the title
2. Quickly study the pictures or any other graphic illustrations (diagrams, tables, charts, graphs, etc.) used by the writer.
3. Read the subtitles and headings if present
4. Read the introduction paragraph (central idea)
5. Read the first and the last sentence of the body paragraphs (main ideas)
6. Use connectors as guiding sign posts
7. Read the conclusion paragraph

To skim a book, you can do the following:

1. Cover page
2. Book name and subtitles
3. Content list
4. For each chapter, just go through the headings, subheadings, introduction, conclusion paragraphs, illustrations, and chapter summary if included.
5. Use connectors in the chapters as guides
6. If required, read the topic sentences and the conclusion sentences of the body paragraphs as well.

Many articles or chapters in a book contain visual clues to important details. Often the layout of the text will give some clues to what is important. Look out for any sign that a piece of text is being:

- emphasized, e.g. **bold**, *italic*, underlined, colored, CAPITALS
- given more or special space, e.g.



SCANNING:

“A quick hunt for a specific detail”

Scanning refers to quickly going through a text to find a specific or particular detail. For example, looking up a word in a telephone book or a dictionary. You are looking for key words or ideas.

People use scanning when

- To check if a resource would answer their questions
- To get to the desired answer quickly
- To concentrate on finding a particular answer

Can you think of any more reasons for scanning? Can you list a few advantages of scanning?

How to scan?

To scan a book, article, passage, brochure, tables, charts, etc for specific details, you can follow the guidelines below:

1. Move your eyes quickly focusing on certain connectors
2. Look for the author's organizers, such as, numbers, letters, steps, headings, and subheadings. Look for words that are boldfaced, italics, or in different font, size, style, or color.
3. Sometimes authors put key ideas in the margin

Exercises

First read the following questions and then use the TV Schedule to find the answers.

1. Jack has a video - can he watch both documentaries without having to make a video?
2. Is there a show about making good investments?
3. You are thinking about traveling to the USA for a vacation. Which show should you watch?
4. Your friend doesn't have a TV, but would like to watch a film starring Tom Cruise. Which film should you record on your video?
5. Peter is interested in wild animals which show should he watch?
6. Which sport can you watch that takes place outside?
7. Which sport can you watch that takes place inside?
8. You like modern art. Which documentary should you watch?
9. How often can you watch the news?
10. Is there a horror film on this evening?

CBC	FNB	ABN
6.00 p.m.: National News - join Jack Parsons for your daily news roundup.	6.00 p.m.: In-Depth News - In-depth coverage of the most important national and international news stories.	6.00 p.m.: Travel Abroad - This week we travel to sunny California!
6.30: The Tiddles - Peter joins Mary for a wild adventure in the park.	7.00: Nature Revealed - Interesting documentary taking a look at the microscopic universe in your average speck of dust.	6.30: The Flintstones - Fred and Barney are at it again.
7.00: Golf Review - Watch highlights from today's final round of the Grand Master's.	7.30: Ping - Pong Masters - Live coverage from Peking.	7.00: Pretty Boy - Tom Cruise, the prettiest boy of them all, in an action packed thriller about Internet espionage.
8.30: Shock from the Past - This entertaining film by Arthur Schmidt takes a poke at the wild side of gambling.	9.30: It's Your Money - That's right and this favorite game show could make or break you depending on how you place your bets.	9.00: Tracking the Beast - The little understood wildebeest filmed in its natural surroundings with commentary by Dick Signit.
10.30: Nightly News - A review of the day's most important events.	10.30: Green Park - Stephen King's latest monster madness.	10.00: Pump Those Weights - A guide to successfully using weights to develop your physique while getting fit.
11.00: MOMA: Art for Everyone - A fascinating documentary that helps you enjoy the difference between pointilism and video installations.	0.30: Late Night News - Get the news you need to get a hard start on the upcoming day.	11.30: The Three Idiots - A fun farce based on those three tenors who don't know when to call it quits.
12:00: Hard Day's Night - Reflections after a long, hard day.		1.00: National Anthem - Close the day with this salute to our country.

Choose the correct answer from the text. The answers may be in any order and chosen more than once.

SEASIDE RESORTS

Which seaside resort would you go to if you

- 01. liked seeing a lot of people
- 02. had breathing problems
- 03. were interested in architecture
- 04. wanted to go fishing
- 05. were interested in fish
- 06. were interested in rocks
- 07. liked drinking British beer
- 08. preferred a warm climate
- 09. wanted to go sailing
- 10. were interested in English poetry

A. Bournemouth

Bournemouth is well-known as a healthy and attractive and modern resort, surrounded by gardens and pine forests, which is popular all year round. It stands on two small hills in the sheltered valley of the Bourne river, the banks of which are laid out as public gardens. There are excellent and extensive sandy beaches for bathing, and a long line of picturesque cliffs. Among interesting things to see, there is the town art gallery and museum, and the East Cliff rock garden attracts geologists for it contains a large collection of British geological specimens. The town has literary connections, with Thomas Hardy and R. L. Stevenson, and Mary, the second wife of the poet, Shelley, is buried in St Peter's churchyard. Pleasant walks may be taken along the coast in both directions.

B. Brighton

Brighton is a popular place, with a pebble beach and some sand at low tide. It lies on the slope of a hill, in the middle of a broad and shallow bay. The chief attractions of the place are its clear and bracing air, the fine expanse of sea bordered by white chalk-cliffs, and the crowds of visitors. There are a large number of old and interesting buildings in the town, in particular the Royal Pavilion, built in an Oriental style by the famous architect, John Nash, for the Prince Regent. There is an interesting aquarium near the Palace Pier. On the landward side of the town, the South Downs provide many interesting walks and viewpoints. In the summer, there is horseracing at the town race course, immortalized in Graham Greene's novel, Brighton Rock. Brighton is well-known for its numerous public houses.

C. Torquay

This is a well-known resort and spa on Tor Bay, Devon, with excellent bathing from a sand and pebble beach. It has a reputation for being a warm and well-sheltered place, and there is sub-tropical vegetation, palm-trees and the like, growing in the public gardens. On account of the mild climate, it is a popular place for people with delicate chests and pulmonary problems. The place dates back to pre-historical times, and there are numerous archaeological remains. Visitors enjoy picturesque cliff walks, but the town is best seen from a boat in the bay. In fact, Torquay is an important yachting station and an annual regatta is held there in August or September.

D. Scarborough

Situated on the Yorkshire coast, Scarborough is built around two bays, separated by a headland on which are the ruins of a twelfth-century castle. The castle makes a fine viewpoint, especially at sunrise. The new town to the north is rather formal, and some find it dull; the narrow streets of the old town to the south become very crowded. The North Bay has gardens and a promenade, protected by a sea-wall. Anne Bronte is buried in Scarborough churchyard. It is a good place for the active and vigorous, for the town makes a good centre for the North York Moor national park, and there is opportunity for sea fishing.

E.Hastings

The name of the town is remembered because of the Battle of Hastings, 1066, in which the French defeated the English and took over the country. Near Hastings is Battle Abbey, one of the most interesting historical monuments in Britain, founded by William the Conqueror after his victory over the English, led by Harold. The Abbey stands on the exact spot where the English king fell. There are many old buildings, including the remains of a Norman castle, open to the public. The sea front is striking, being about three miles long, and having a fine esplanade. The beach is pebble with sand at low tide. The town is active only in summer, and along the sea-front are row upon row of bed and breakfast hotels. There are cliffs to the east, providing walks to the well-known beauty spots of Fairlight and Ecclesbourne Glens.

Complete the table below by quickly scanning the text that follows:

LANGUAGE	DEVELOPED	FUNCTION	CHARACTERISTIC
FORTRAN	1959	mathematical and scientific purposes	combines features of COBOL and ALGOL
BASIC	1962	to support Unix operating system	

COMPUTER LANGAUAAGES:

Computers can deal with different kinds of problems if they are given the right instructions for what to do. Instructions are first written in one of the high-level languages, e.g. FORTRAN, COBOL, ALGOL, PL/I, PASCAL, BASIC, or C, depending on the type of problem to be solved.

A program written in one of these languages is often called a source program, and it cannot be directly processed by the computer until it has been compiled, which means interpreted into machine code. Usually a single instruction written in a high-level language, when transformed into machine code, results in several instructions. Here is a brief description of some of the many high-level languages:

FORTRAN acronym for FORMula TRANslation. This language is used for solving scientific and mathematical problems. It consists of algebraic formulae and English phrases. It was first introduced in the United States in 1954.

COBOL acronym for COMmon Business-Oriented Language. This language is used for commercial purposes. COBOL, which is written using English statements, deals with problems that do not involve a lot of mathematical calculations. It was first introduced in 1959.

ALGOL acronym for ALGORithmic Language. Originally called IAL, which means International Algebraic Language. It is used for mathematical and scientific purposes. ALGOL was first introduced in Europe in 1960.

PL/I Programming Language I. Developed in 1964 to combine features of COBOL and ALGOL. Consequently, it is used for data processing as well as scientific applications.

BASIC acronym for Beginner's All-purpose Symbolic Instruction Code. Developed in 1965 at Dartmouth College in the United States for use by students who require a simple language to begin programming.

C developed in the 1970s to support the UNIX operating system. *C* is a highly portable general-purpose language.

Other such languages are APL (developed in 1962), PASCAL (named after Blaise Pascal and developed in 1971), and LISP and PROLOG, both of which are used for work in artificial intelligence. LOGO is a development of LISP which has been used to develop computer-based training (CBT) packages.
