

MCAC 105

Unit 7

Language Comprehension

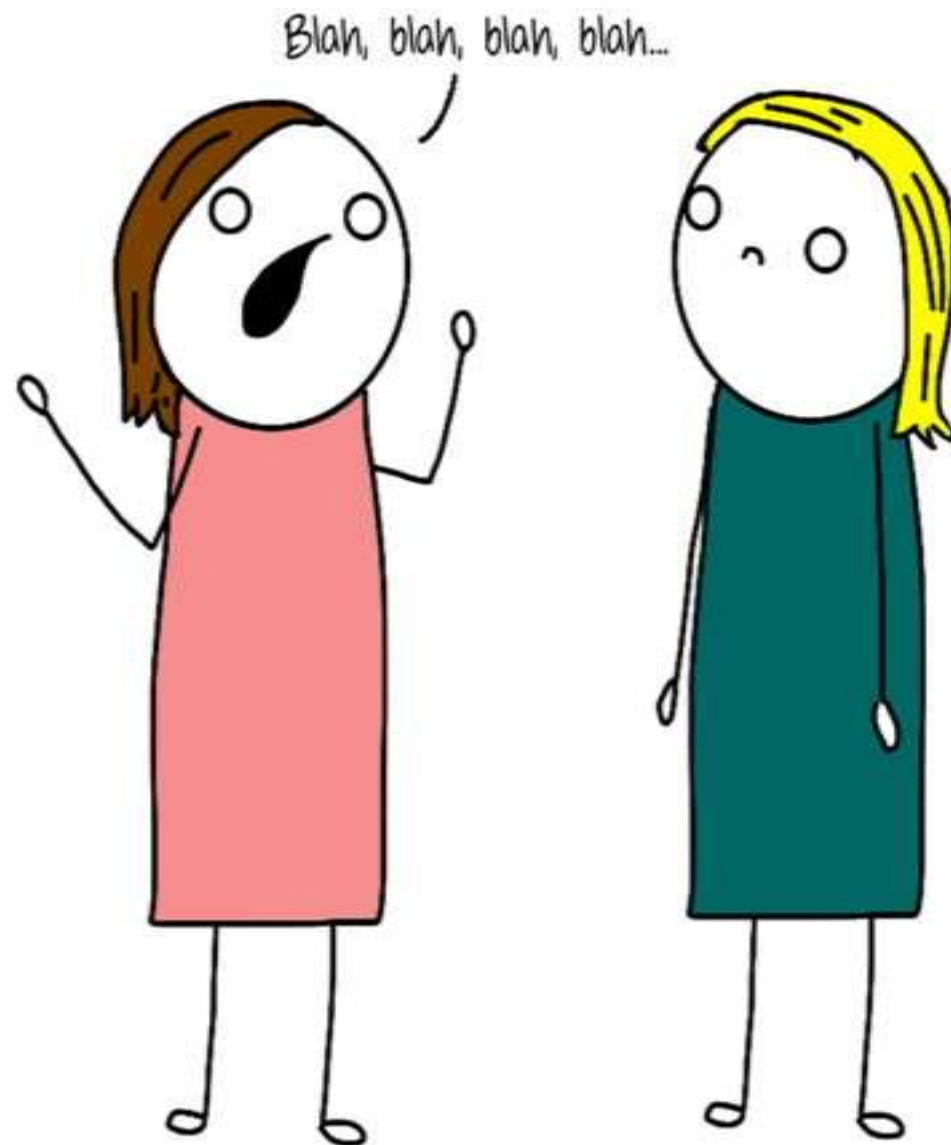
Syllabus

Language Comprehension

- Summarizing,
- Reading Comprehension,
- short composition
- errors

Understanding what other people say and write is more complicated than it might at first appear.

Comprehending language involves a variety of capacities, skills, processes, knowledge and dispositions that are used to derive meanings from spoken, written and signed languages.



Language comprehension is a complex process that occurs easily and effortlessly by humans.

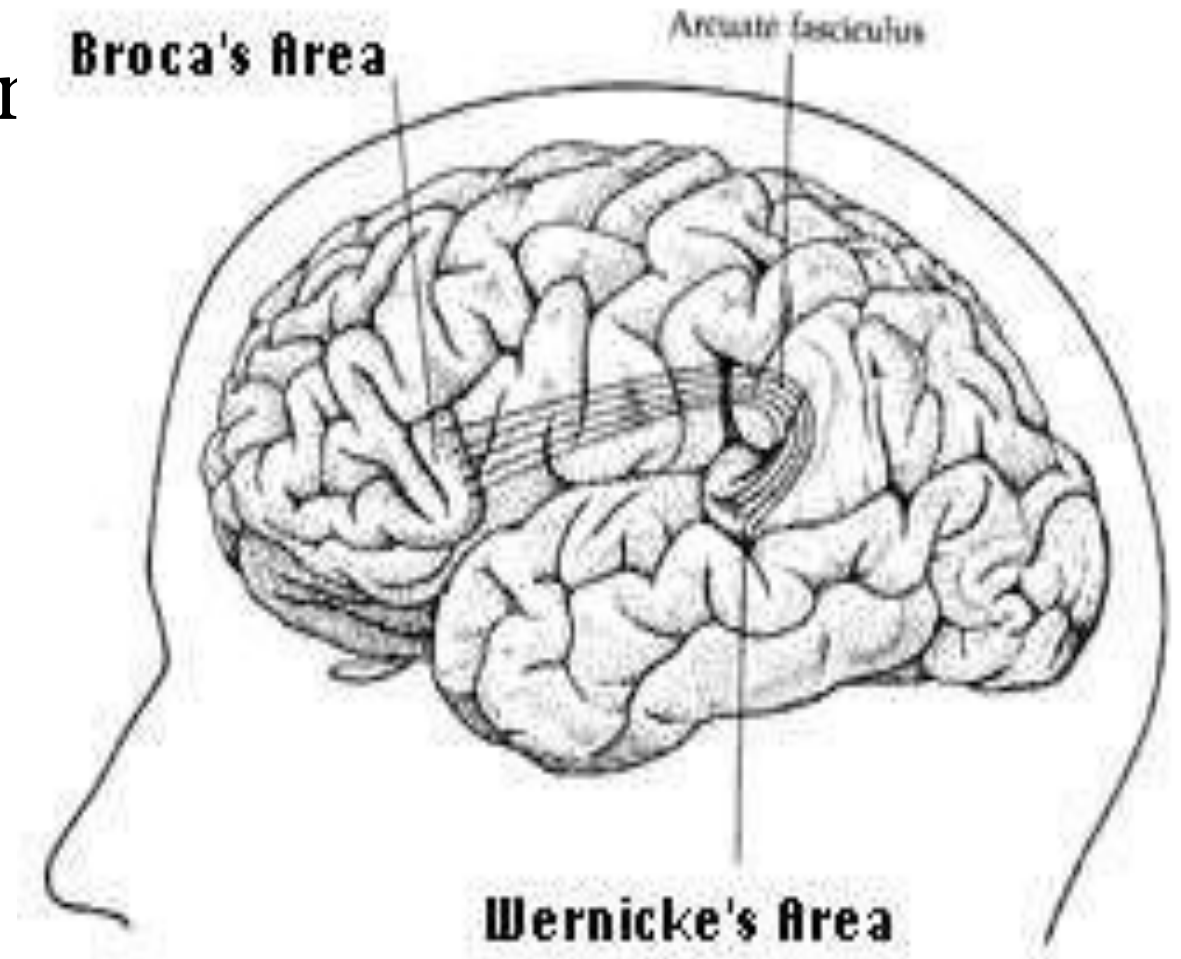
It develops along with the “brain” and is able to be enhanced with the use of gestures.



LANGUAGE AREAS IN THE BRAIN

The language parts of the brain were named after two 19th Century Physicians

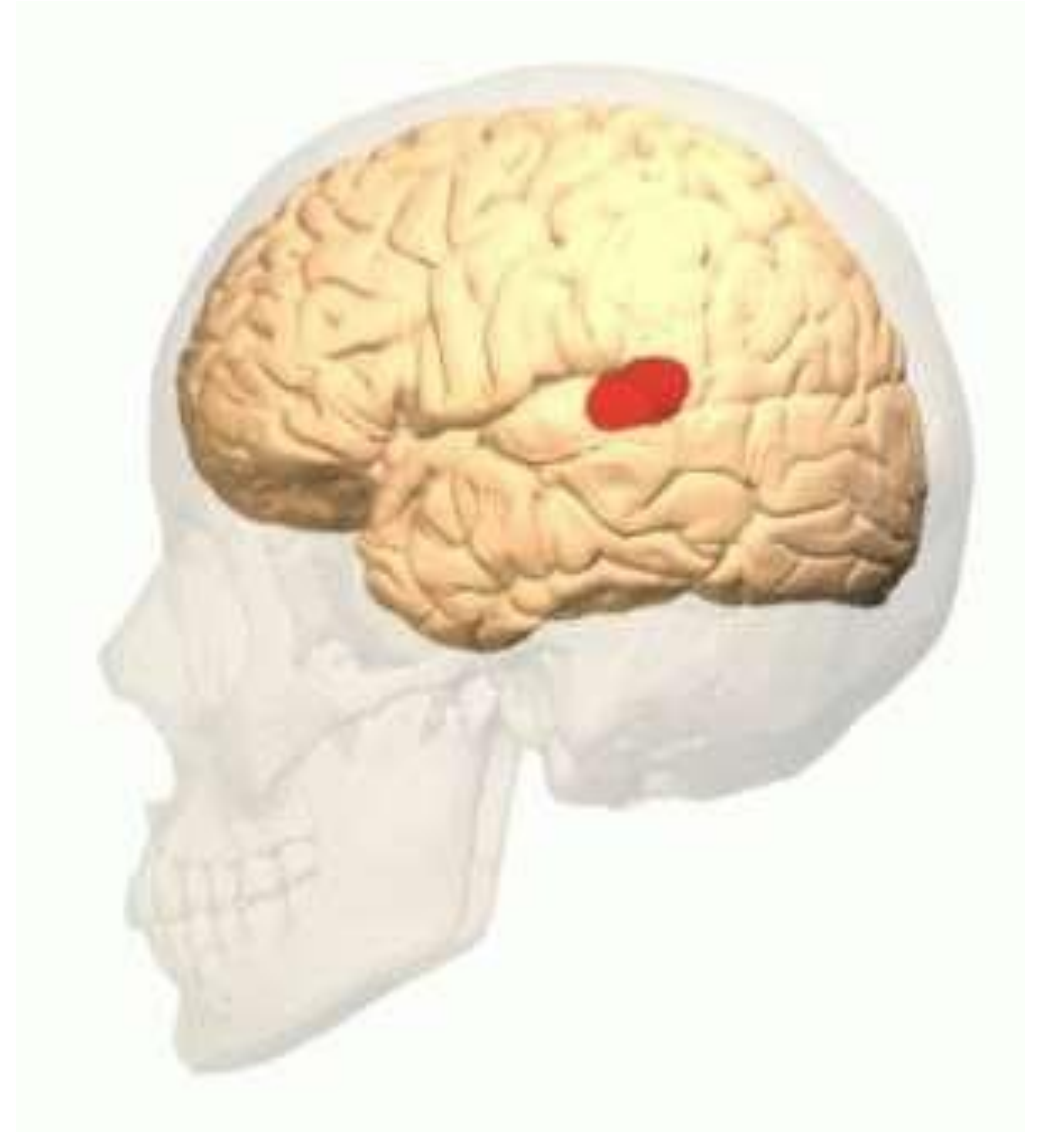
“PAUL BROCA” & “CARL WERNICKE”.



Broca`s area is located in the left Frontal lobe and is considered responsible for articulated language(Speech production)



Wernicke`s area is located in the left temporal lobe and is considered accountable for comprehension of sounds and words.



Motor Cortex

An area that generally controls movements of the muscles (for moving hands, feet, arms, etc.) close to Broca's area is the part of the “motor cortex” that controls the articulatory muscles of the face, jaws, tongue and larynx.

Evidence that this area is involved in the physical articulation of speech.



Gunning(1996) identifies three main theories:

- SCHEMA THEORY
- MENTAL MODEL THEORY
- PROPOSITION THEORY

SCHEMA THEORY

“Background knowledge is often essential to an understanding of texts.

Our knowledge of the world is said to be stored in the form of schemas”.

Schema theory was first proposed in 1932 by the Cambridge Memory researcher Sir Frederic Bartlett and has been considerably expanded since then.

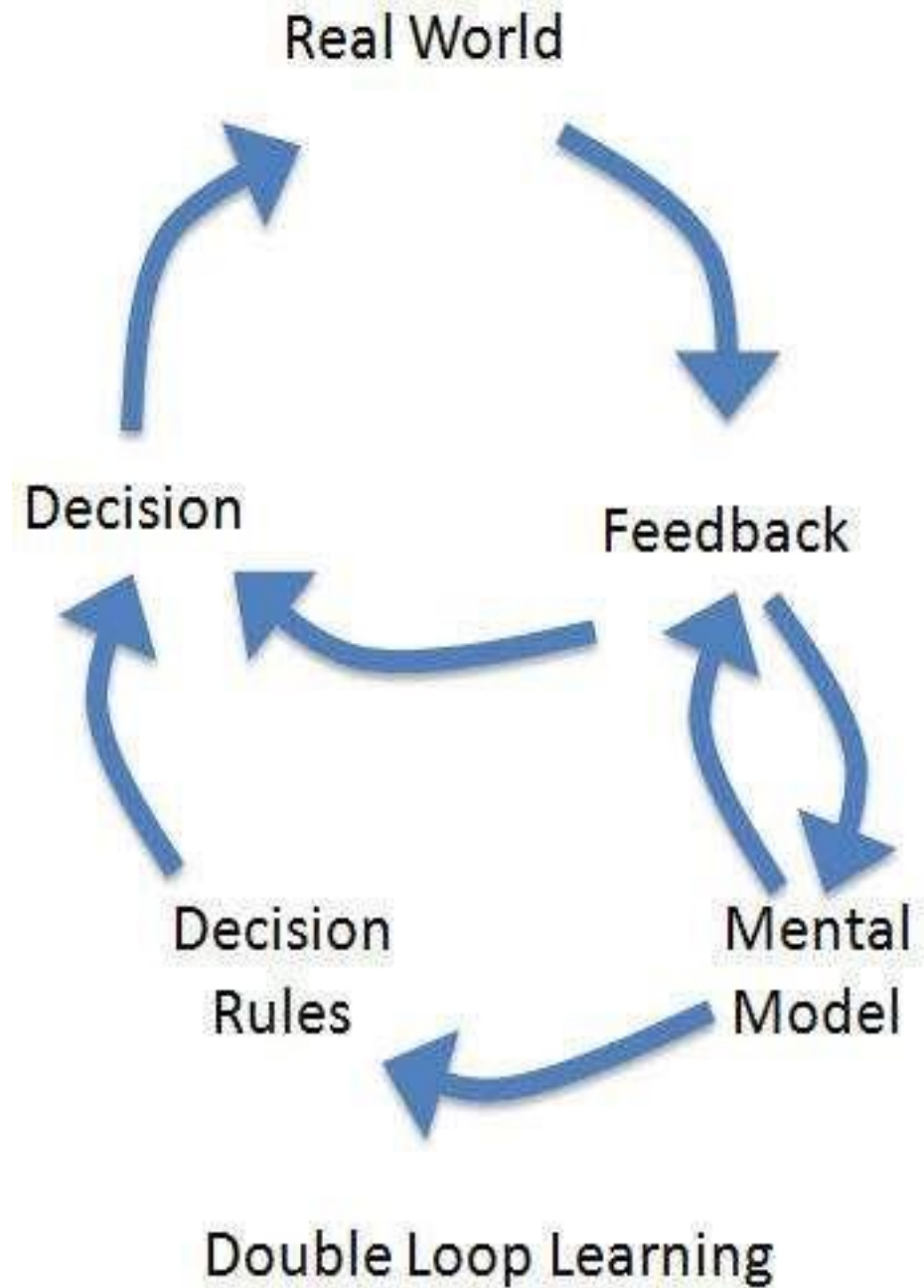


MENTAL MODEL THEORY

This Model can be thought of as a mind movie, created in one's head based on the reading context.

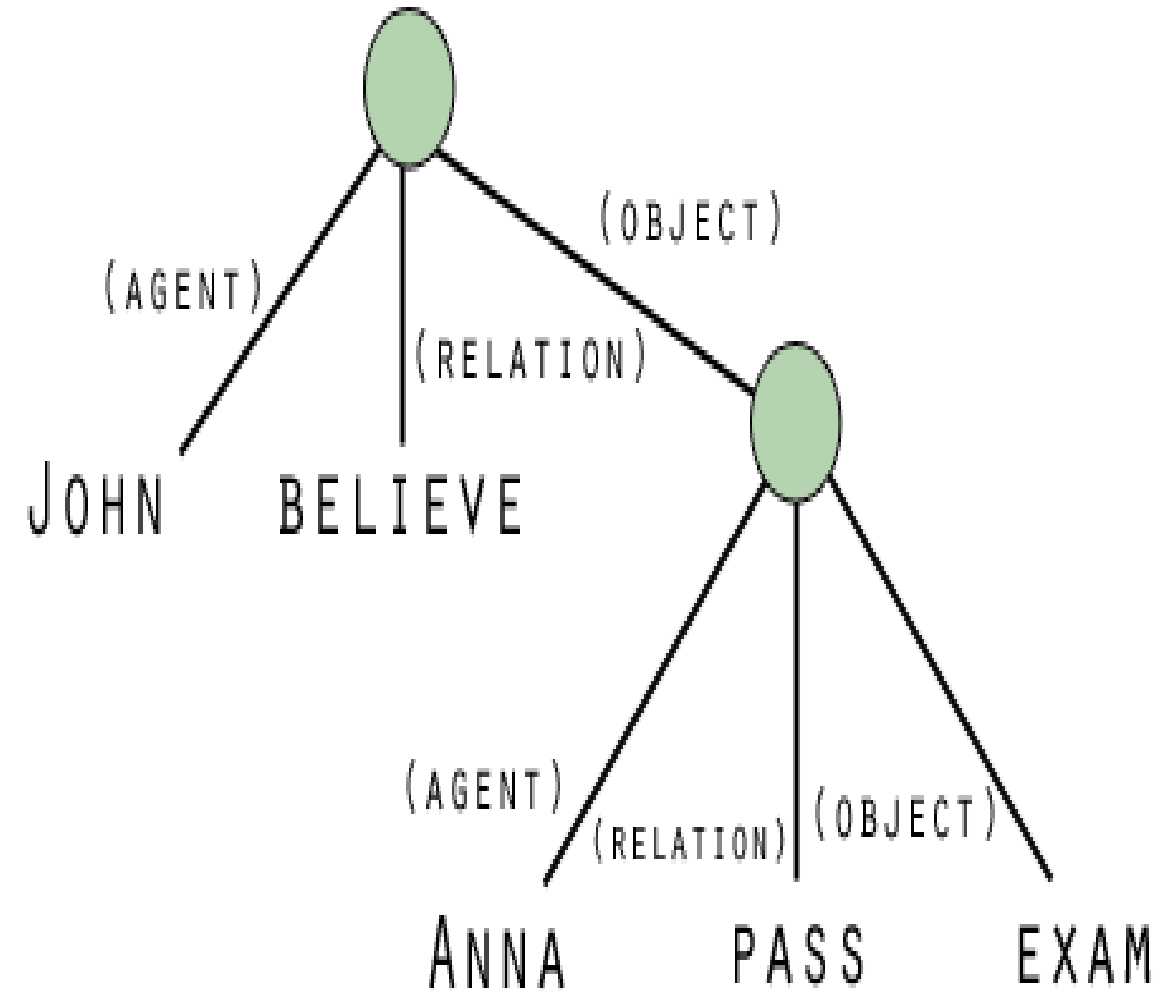
According to Gunning 1996, the “model is constructed most often when the student is reading fiction. The reader focuses on the main character and creates a mental model of circumstances in which the character finds him/her.

The Mental Model is constructed or updated to reflect the new circumstances as the situation changes, but the items important to the character are kept in the foreground”



PROPOSITION THEORY

- This involves the reader's construction of a main idea or macro structure as they process the text.
- These main ideas are organized in a hierarchical fashion with the most important things given the highest priority to be memorized(Gunning 1996)



Ambiguity

- Find at least 5 meanings of this sentence:
 - I made her duck
- I cooked waterfowl for her benefit (to eat)
- I cooked waterfowl belonging to her
- I created the (plaster?) duck she owns
- I caused her to quickly lower her head or body
- I waved my magic wand and turned her into undifferentiated waterfowl
- At least one other meaning that's inappropriate for gentle company.

SUMMARIZING: WHAT IS IT?

- Summarizing is taking a large selection of text and then reducing it to smaller pieces.
- Summarizing is finding the main idea of a text.
- Summarizing is also finding the supporting details of the main idea.
- In other words, summarizing is retelling only the important parts of the story in YOUR WORDS.
- Text features such as titles, subtitles, bold, color, margin notes, etc. are clues to a text's most important information -- information you may want to include in your summary.

Read the passage and paraphrase

After many injuries, players began to use plain, leather caps. Plastic helmets and masks appeared later. Still, many players were getting hurt. To make helmets better, designers studied--- woodpeckers! Their tough, spongy skulls became the model for modern football helmets.

Summary

During football's early days, many injuries occurred due to little or no head protection. Improved football helmets were designed using woodpecker skulls

Reading Comprehension

- Comprehension is the "essence of reading" (Durkin, 1993). It is a complex thinking process that requires the reader to construct meaning from the text.
- **Reading comprehension** is the ability to **read** text, process it and understand its **meaning**. An individual's ability to **comprehend** text is influenced by their traits and skills, one of which is the ability to make inferences.
- Reading comprehension is the act of understanding what you are reading.
- Reading comprehension is an intentional, active, interactive process that occurs before, during and after a person reads a particular piece of writing.

Three Levels of Comprehension



Literal

Interpretative

Applied

The Literal Level

The **literal level** focuses on reading the passages, hearing the words or viewing the images. It involves identifying the important and essential information. With guidance, students can distinguish between the important and less important ideas.

Facts and details

Rote learning and memorization

Surface understanding only

The Interpretive Level

At the **interpretive level**, the focus shifts to reading between the lines, looking at what is implied by the material under study. It requires students to combine pieces of information in order to make inferences about the author's intent and message.

Drawing inferences

Tapping into prior knowledge / experience

Attaching new learning to old information

Making logical leaps and educated guesses

Reading between the lines to determine what is **meant** by what is **stated**.

Question: What was meant by what was said?

The Applied Level

Understandings at the literal and interpretive levels are combined, reorganized and restructured at the **applied level** to express opinions, draw new insights and develop fresh ideas.

Critical reading and analysis

Analyzing

Synthesizing

Applying

Question: *How would the author's message apply to other situations given what you memorized and understood at the other two levels?*

Example: If Henry's friend Tom was the one playing the guitar, do you think Henry would have rolled his eyes? Why or why not?

Reading Comprehension Skill

What is scanning?

What is previewing?

What is predicting?

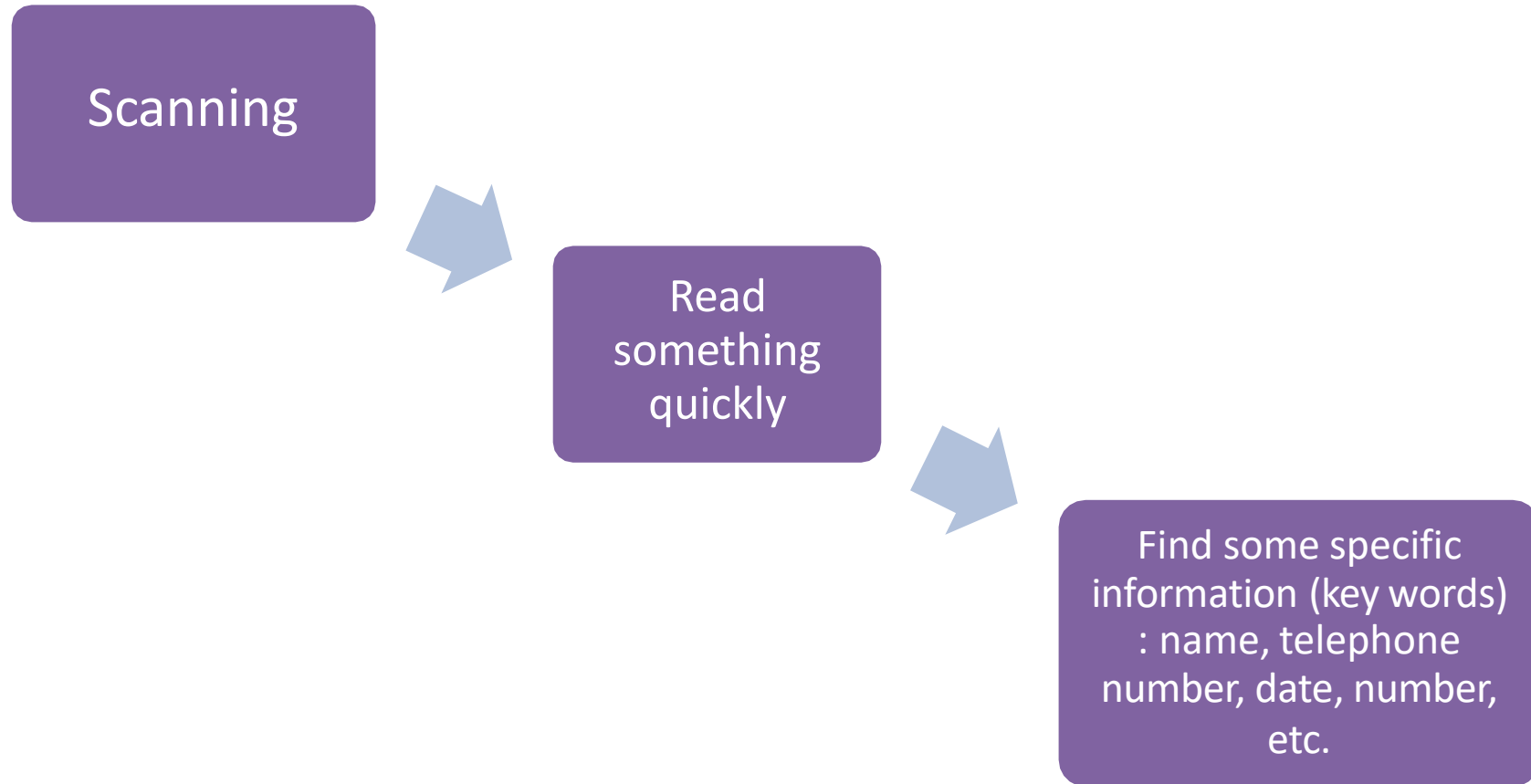
What is reading
comprehension skill?

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graph TD; A[What is reading comprehension skill?] --> B[The ability to understand what we read where words have context and texts have meaning.]; A --> C[Allow us to read proficiently, learn effectively, problem-solve, strategize, conceptualize,];
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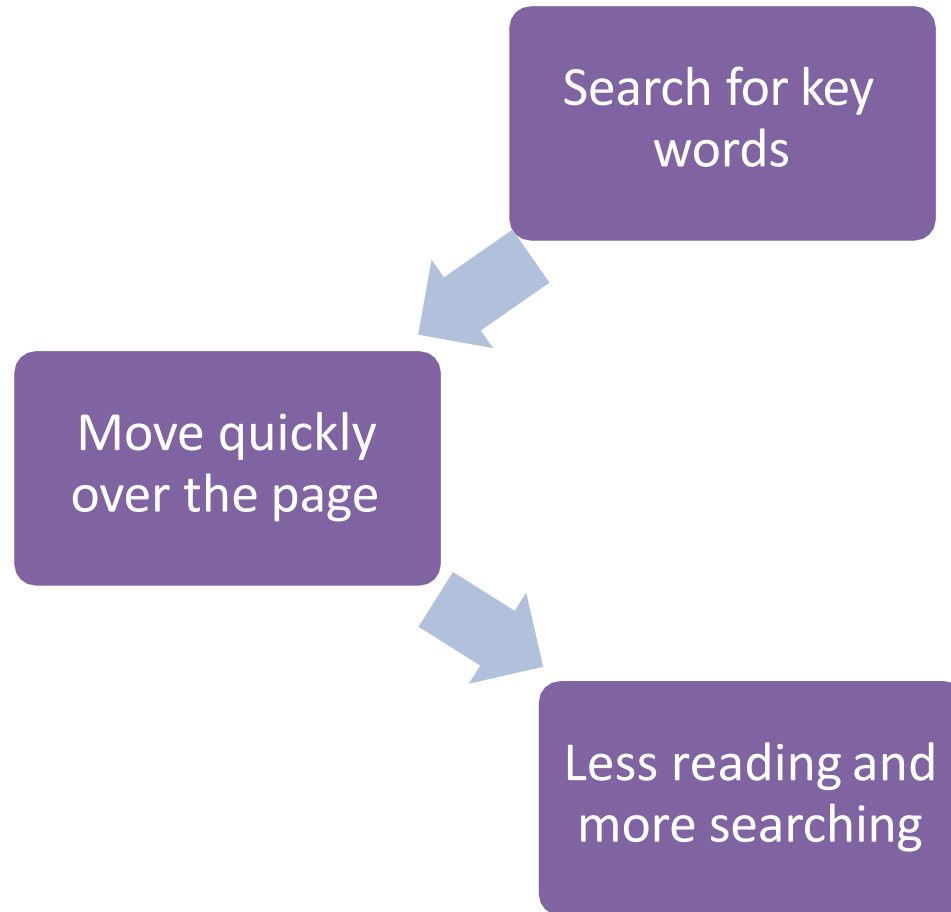
The ability to understand what we read where words have context and texts have meaning.

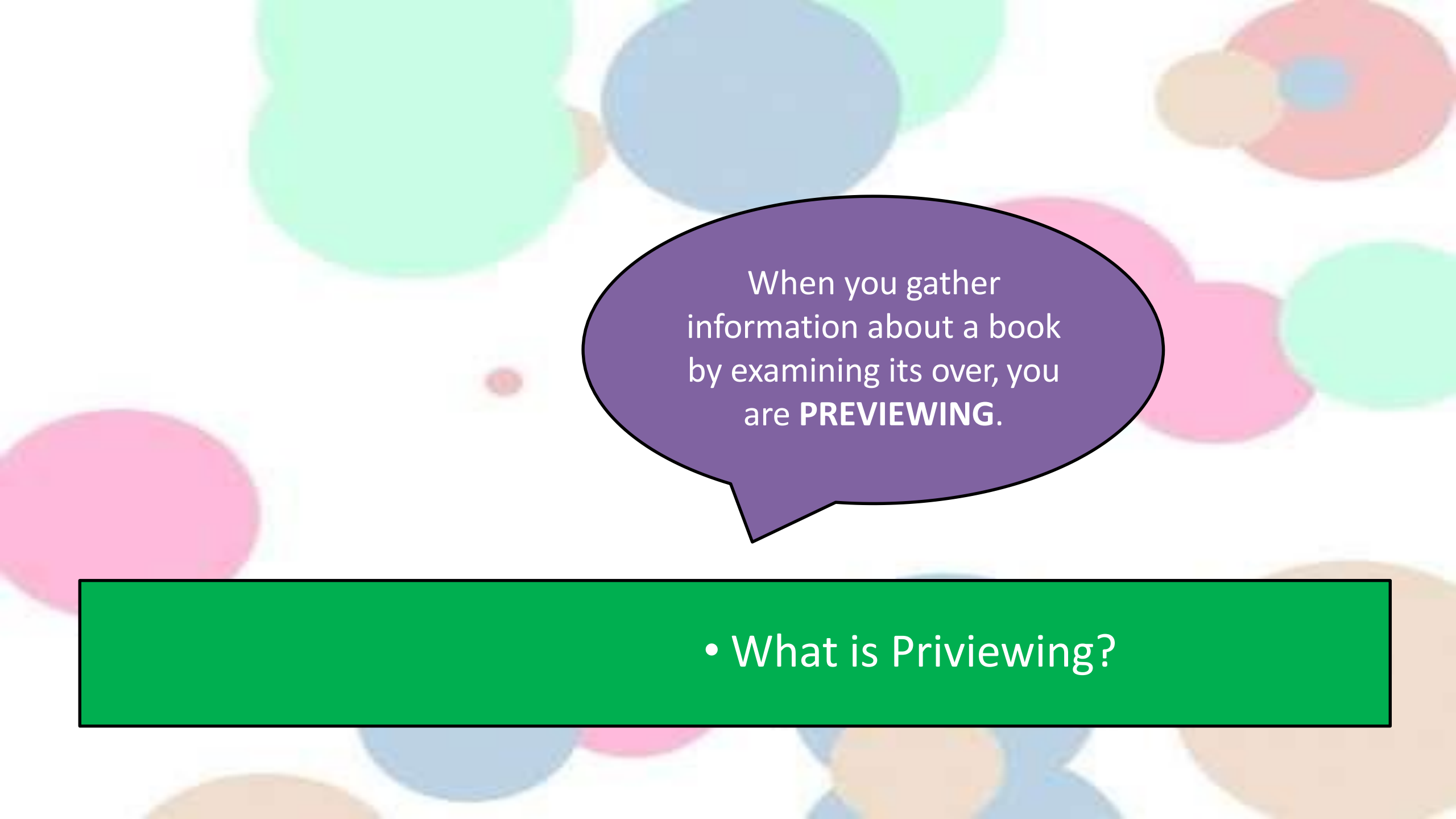
Allow us to read proficiently, learn effectively, problem-solve, strategize, conceptualize,

What is Scanning?



How to Scanning?

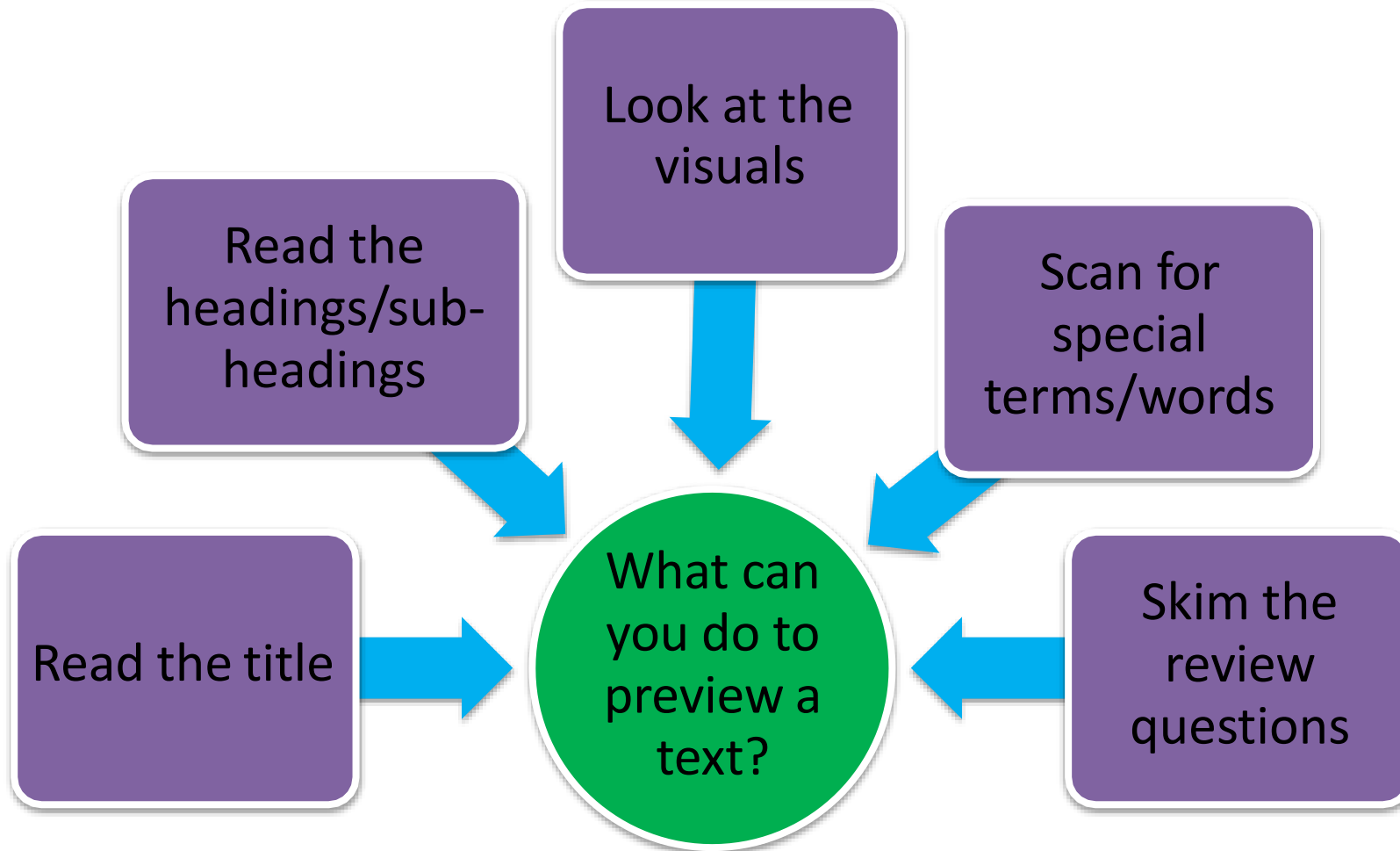




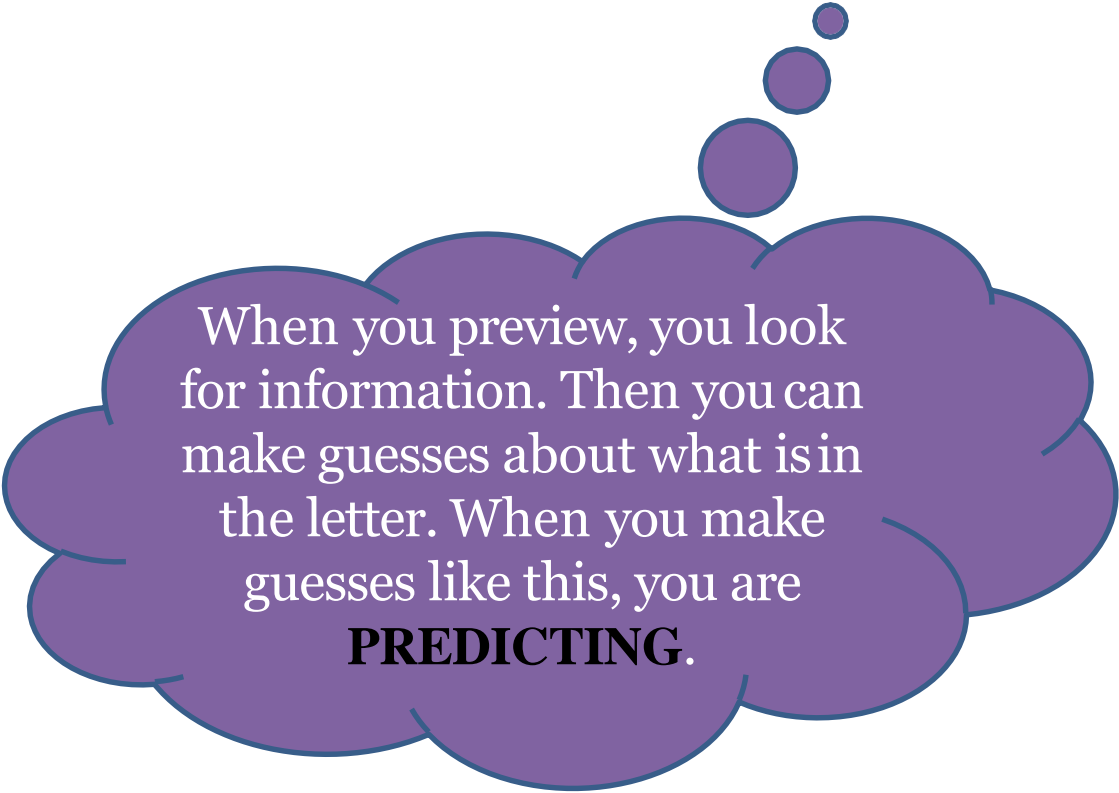
When you gather information about a book by examining its over, you are **PREVIEWING**.

- What is Priviewing?

How to Priviewing?



What is Predicting?



When you preview, you look for information. Then you can make guesses about what is in the letter. When you make guesses like this, you are **PREDICTING.**



The Meanings of Composition:

- **Constituents:** the way in which something is made, especially in terms of its different parts.
- **Arrangement:** the way in which the parts of something are arranged.
- **Putting together of things:** the act or process of combining things to form a whole.
- **Piece of writing:** a short piece of writing, especially a school exercise.



English Composition Defined:

- ❑ A piece of writing.
- ❑ English composition skill is mainly composed of writing paragraphs, essays, and other formal & informal writings including business correspondence as well.
- ❑ As a college or university student and in your professional career, you'll likely need to be able to write succinctly, persuasively and grammatically correct.



!!!Paragraph!!!

Most paragraphs are part of a longer piece of writing. Some are quite short, some are long, and some stand alone as a complete composition.

In short, we can say, a paragraph is a group of several sentences dealing with one main idea.



!!!Essay!!!

- An essay is usually a short non-fictional prose composition which deals with the different aspects of a single subject.
- Normally, we can say that an essay is a group of paragraphs dealing with one main idea.

Classification of Essays

- **Descriptive essay** describes persons, places, and objects.
It may be both subjective and objective.

Covid 19

The current situation in India

- **Narrative essay** narrates a series of events.

The Happiest Day in My Life

A Road Accident

- **Expository essay** contains an exposition or explanation of some subject. Normally, it explains a thesis.

Urban Facilities

Information Technology and Education