

Module: English

Lesson 2: Reading Techniques

I. Introduction

Reading in English is a strategic academic skill that goes beyond understanding vocabulary. In a world where English dominates scientific publications, media analysis, and global communication, students must learn techniques that help them read faster and think more critically.

This lesson explores three essential reading strategies skimming, scanning, and structure recognition which enable learners to deal with academic texts efficiently and confidently.

II. The Purpose of Reading Techniques

Reading is not a single action; it is a purpose-based process. Each technique serves a different academic need:

- * To grasp the general idea → Skimming
- * To locate specific information → Scanning
- * To understand how ideas are organized → Structure Recognition

Learning these techniques allows students to approach reading with clarity, direction, and confidence.

III. Skimming

III.1 Definition

Skimming is a fast-reading method used to obtain the ****main idea**** of a text without paying attention to details. It is useful when the goal is to understand what the text is generally about.

III.2 When to Use Skimming

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Students skim when they want to:

- * Identify the central topic
- * Understand the writer's purpose
- * Get an overview before deeper reading
- * Decide if a text is relevant for research

III.3 How to Skim Effectively

Good skimming involves:

- * Reading titles and subtitles
- * Checking the introduction and conclusion
- * Focusing on topic sentences
- * Noticing bold or repeated keywords

Skimming is essential in research articles, textbooks, and journalistic texts where time is limited.

V. Scanning

IV.1 Definition

Scanning is a selective reading technique used to locate **one specific piece of information** quickly—such as a date, statistic, name, or definition.

IV.2 When to Use Scanning

Students use this technique when searching for:

- * Numerical data

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- * Key terms
- * Definitions
- * Important names or places
- * Answers to exam questions

IV.3 How to Scan Effectively

Effective scanning requires:

- * Knowing exactly what information is needed
- * Moving eyes quickly across the page
- * Focusing on visual patterns (numbers, capital letters, bold words)
- * Ignoring unrelated details

Scanning is widely used in research, media reading, and academic note-taking.

V. Structure Recognition

V.1 Definition

Structure recognition means identifying how a text is organized. This helps students understand the flow of ideas and the logic behind the writer's argument.

V.2 Common Text Structures

Academic and media texts frequently follow clear patterns, such as:

- *Cause → Effect
- *Problem → Solution
- *Comparison → Contrast
- *Chronological Order



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*General → Specific

V.3 Importance of Structure Recognition

Recognizing structure helps students:

- * Distinguish main ideas from supporting details
- * Predict upcoming information
- * Summarize texts effectively
- * Understand academic arguments clearly

It is a key skill for university studies, research writing, and advanced reading comprehension.

VI. Reading Techniques and Academic Performance

Mastering skimming, scanning, and structure recognition improves overall academic literacy. Students become able to:

- * Handle long texts efficiently
- * Extract important ideas
- * Evaluate sources
- * Prepare for exams
- * Participate in academic discussions

These techniques support critical thinking and make reading a powerful academic tool.

VII. Conclusion

Reading techniques are fundamental for success in English as an academic discipline. By developing the skills of skimming, scanning, and recognizing structure,

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students learn to read with purpose, interpret complex ideas, and connect information to broader academic and global contexts.

These strategies prepare learners for future tasks such as writing summaries, analyzing texts, and engaging with international research.

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