

Summarising

Skimming and scanning continued

Scanning means looking for something in particular, whereas skimming involves gaining an overall understanding of an article or text. In this lesson we learn about situations in which we use these skills.

Outcomes

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to:

- define skimming and scanning and give examples of where these skills are used
- practise skimming and scanning when reading a newspaper

Curriculum Links

LO 2: Reading and Viewing

- skim texts to identify main ideas by reading titles, introductions, first paragraphs and introductory sentences of paragraphs
- scan texts for supporting details

Lesson Notes

In everyday life, you often use **scanning** for the following activities:

- finding information to answer a question
- searching for a house number or street sign
- looking for a specific telephone number
- scanning the crowd to find your friend
- looking in a map book for directions to an area that you have never visited before
- paging through a television guide to see when a particular programme is being aired
- reading a notice-board at school



In everyday life, you often use **skimming** for the following activities:

- checking whether or not you want to read the whole of an article
- glancing at a flyer or pamphlet to see what it is about



If you had to read and process all the texts you see every day you would drown in information. That is why it is important to develop skills for determining whether or not information is relevant and important.



How do you decide what information is important?

- check the headlines
- look at the pictures
- look at the bold print

TASK

Examine the local newspaper to practice skimming and scanning. Follow these steps:

- Step 1 - Find the section that interests you
- Step 2 - Focus on articles likely to include interesting information
- Step 3 - Skim through the article to see if it addresses your needs
- Step 4 - Read the entire article with interest