Skimming and scanning to improve your reading comprehension

Área Académica: Licenciatura en Ingeniería Industrial

Profesor(a): LELI. Leticia Sánchez Franco

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Resumen

En esta presentación se describen dos estrategias básicas para responder de manera efectiva la sección de comprensión lectora del examen de certificación TOEFL.

Abstract

This presentation describes two basic strategies that allows to answer effectively the reading section of the TOEFL.

Key words: skimming, scanning, build, skills.
Skim

Reading quickly for general meaning.

It is used to find out about the topic, the main ideas and general organization.

Scan

Knowing what information you need to find before you read.

It is used to look for a fact or a detail or a particular vocabulary word.
The reading skills of skimming and scanning will be very useful to you in the Reading Comprehension Section of the TOEFL. The TOEFL is a timed reading situation, reading quickly for meaning is extremely important in order to finish the test and to answer questions correctly.
BEFORE THE TOEFL

Skim and scan as you practice reading in a practice context or in your outside reading.
Skim and scan the following passages to identify the topic and some specific details.
People are still reading books, and lots of them. The number of new books published keeps growing—90,000 new titles in the United States during the last year by the latest industry count. The number is double the total output two decades ago. Reading is still an important part of our lives.

1. What is the passage about?
A. The amount of reading people do
B. Book reviews
C. Leisure time activities
D. A popular new book

Correct answer: A
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2. How many new books were published in the United States last year?
   A. 60,000
   B. 900
   C. 9,000
   D. 90,000

Correct answer: D
The average book reader spends more than one hour a day poring over the pages, often just before bed. Readers are not an idle lot. They are busy people, tennis players, skiers, gardeners. «TV isn’t really a problem,» insists John Y. Cole, director of the Center for Books. Reading experts say that television programs based on books actually stimulate books sales. People find time to read because they enjoy reading, and they adjust their schedules to include time to pursue this activity.

1. **This paragraph is about**
   A. the continued popularity of reading
   B. favorite programs of TV viewers
   C. busy people
   D. popular outdoor sports

Correct answer: A
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1. **Who is John Y. Cole?**
   
   A. A TV viewer  
   B. A tennis player  
   C. Director of the Center for Books  
   D. A book salesman

Correct answer: C
REFERENCE