

Active reading



# Active Reading Strategies

## **BEFORE YOU READ:**

**Predict** – what are you expecting from the text?

**Activate your prior knowledge** – what do you know about this already?

**Make a plan and create goals** – what do you want to get from the text?

## **WHILE YOU READ:**

**Ask questions**

**Skim and scan** for key information

**Visualise**

**Reread** if you don't understand the first time

**Be selective** – decide what is important

**Deal with unfamiliar words** – context / break it down / dictionary

**Summarise**

**Infer** – look for deeper meanings

**Empathise**

## **AFTER YOU READ:**

**Reflect**

**Check your understanding**

**Revisit**



**be active.**

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# What are skimming and scanning?



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## Scanning

When you're reading you don't have to read everything with the same amount of care and attention.

Sometimes you need to be able to read a text very quickly. For example, to look up the word 'valuable' in the dictionary you wouldn't start at the letter A and read every word. The most efficient way is to turn to the letter V and then find the words beginning with va-. This is called **scanning** through the dictionary.

Scanning is one type of fast reading

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# Scanning

You might use scanning to:

- look up a word in a dictionary or index
- find an address or a phone number in a directory
- find out a date, name or statistic in a text book or article
- look up details or prices in a catalogue
- pick out the website you want from options on a Google search

## WHILE YOU READ:

Ask questions

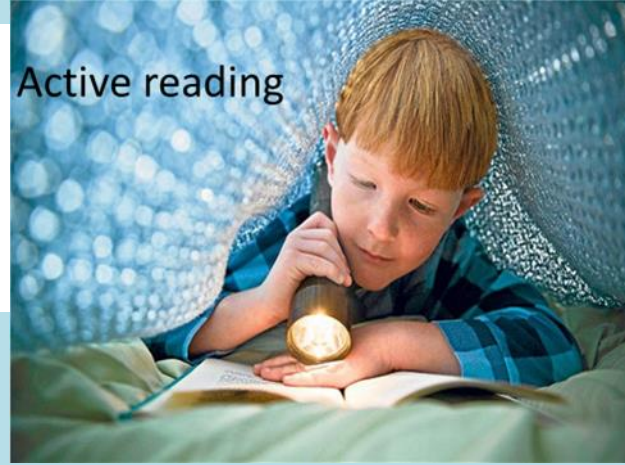
Skim and scan for key information

# Scanning

Tips: better scanning

- Don't try to read every word. Instead let your eyes move quickly across the page until you find what you're looking for.
- Use clues on the page, such as headings and titles, to help you.
- In a dictionary or phone book, use the header words to help you scan. You can find these in bold type at the top of each page.
- If you're reading for study, start by thinking up or writing down some questions that you want to answer. Doing this can focus your mind and help you find the facts or information that you need more easily.

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# Skimming

This is another type of fast reading. You might use skimming to look through a text quickly to get the gist (the general idea). So, if you want to know what's going on in the news, you might skim through a newspaper or a news website. You wouldn't have much detail but you would find out the main points.



## WHILE YOU READ:

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Skim and scan for key information

## Skimming

You might use skimming to:

- see what's in the news in a paper or on a website
- browse through a book to see if you want to read it
- look through the television guide to see what's on one evening
- flick through a catalogue to see what's on offer
- look through the options given on a Google search to see what sites it suggests

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## WHILE YOU READ:

Ask questions

Skim and scan for key information



Take the quiz to see if you have learned the difference between skimming and scanning

- [http://www2.elc.polyu.edu.hk/cill/icoso/Skim ming and Scanning/index.htm](http://www2.elc.polyu.edu.hk/cill/icoso/Skim%20ming%20and%20Scanning/index.htm)

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Look at the following extract. In pairs, think of 5 questions you could set someone on this text to test their scanning skills.

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**Can you think of any tips you could give them (e.g. look for a capital letter).**



## From today's featured article



The **silky sifaka** (*Propithecus candidus*) is a large lemur with silky white fur that lives in northeastern Madagascar. It is listed by the [International Union for Conservation of Nature](#) as one of the world's 25 most critically endangered primates. The silky sifaka lives in groups of two to nine and spends most of its day feeding, resting, playing, grooming, and traveling. Like other eastern [sifakas](#), it eats leaves and seeds, but also fruit, flowers, and even soil. As with other sifaka species, group members will groom, play with, carry, and nurse infants that are not their own. Adults vocalize frequently despite having only seven different calls. Like all lemurs, it relies strongly on [scent](#) for communication; males frequently [scent-mark](#). The species is found in the rainforests of northeastern Madagascar, with the remaining population in [Marojejy National Park](#), [Anjanaharibe-Sud Special Reserve](#), the [Makira Forest Protected Area](#), the Betaolana Corridor, and some unprotected forest fragments. Locals hunt the silky sifaka throughout its range. ([Full article...](#))

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How do these skills transfer to life beyond school?

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/topic/skimming-and-scanning>