

Essential
IELTS READING SKILLS
Skimming and Scanning

Contents

- What is Skimming?
- Tips on Skimming
- What is Scanning?
- Tips on Scanning
- Practice Skimming and Scanning with IELTS excerpts.
- Homework

Skimming

- reading only main ideas within a passage to get an overall impression / general idea of the content of a reading
- Skimming will save you time
- Skimming will help you locate the information quickly

A Few Tips on How to Skim

1. On the IELTS exam, read the questions first.
2. Read the title.
3. Read the introduction or the first paragraph.
4. Read the first sentence of every other paragraph.
5. Read any headings and sub-headings.
6. Notice any pictures, charts, or graphs.
7. Notice any italicized or boldface words or phrases.

Scanning

- used when you want to find specific information quickly.
- Scanning can save you *a lot* of time
- Scanning will help you locate keywords or data quickly

A Few Tips on How to Scan

1. On the IELTS exam, read the questions first.
2. Know the specific information you are looking for.
3. Try to anticipate how the answer will appear in the text.
4. Use headings and any other aids that will help you identify which sections might contain the information you are looking for.
5. Selectively read and skip through sections of the passage.

"This inhuman place makes human monsters," wrote Stephen King in his novel *The Shining*. Many academics agree that monsters lurk in the deepest recesses, they prowl through our ancestral minds appearing in the half-light, under the bed - or at the bottom of the sea.

"They don't really exist, but they play a huge role in our mindscapes, in our dreams, stories, nightmares, myths and so on," says Matthias Classen, assistant professor of literature and media at Aarhus University in Denmark, who studies monsters in literature. "Monsters say something about human psychology, not the world."

Scanning Questions

1. The Shining was written by _____
2. Aarhus University is in _____
3. Matthias Classen studies _____ in literature.

Skimming Question

This excerpt is talking about:

1. How to hunt monsters.
2. That monsters don't really exist.
3. How monster myths play a role in our imagination.

Scanning Questions

1. The Shining was written by **Stephen King**.
2. Aarhus University is in **Denmark**.
3. Matthias Classen studies **monsters** in literature.

Skimming Question

This excerpt is talking about:

1. How to hunt monsters.
2. That monsters don't really exist.
3. How monster myths play a role in our imagination.

Aphantasia: A life without mental images

Most people can readily conjure images inside their head - known as their mind's eye. But this year scientists have described a condition, aphantasia, in which some people are unable to visualise mental images.

Niel Kenmuir, from Lancaster, has always had a blind mind's eye. He knew he was different even in childhood. "My stepfather, when I couldn't sleep, told me to count sheep, and he explained what he meant, I tried to do it and I couldn't," he says. "I couldn't see any sheep jumping over fences, there was nothing to count."

Our memories are often tied up in images, think back to a wedding or first day at school. As a result, Niel admits, some aspects of his memory are "terrible", but he is very good at **remembering** facts. And, like others with aphantasia, he struggles to recognise faces. Yet he does not see aphantasia as a disability, but simply a different way of experiencing life.

Scanning Questions

1. Mr. Kenmuir is from _____
2. Niel is a good at remembering _____
3. Aphantasia means people cannot visualise

Skimming Question

This excerpt is talking about:

1. A terrible disease called aphantasia.
2. Understanding living with aphantasia.
3. How to cure aphantasia.

Scanning Questions

1. Mr. Kenmuir is from **Lancaster**.
2. Niel is a good at remembering **facts**.
3. Aphantasia means people cannot visualise **mental images**.

Skimming Question

This excerpt is talking about:

1. A terrible disease called aphantasia.
2. Understanding living with aphantasia.
3. How to cure aphantasia.

While Devin Liddell, who heads brand strategy for Seattle-based design consultancy, **Teague**, condemns the violence and other illegal activities he became curious as to how criminal groups endure. Some cartels stay in business despite multiple efforts by law enforcement on both sides of the US border and millions of dollars from international agencies to shut them down. Liddell genuinely believes there's a lesson in longevity here. One strategy he underlined was how the bad guys respond to change. In order to bypass the border between Mexico and the US, for example, the **Sinaloa** cartel went to great lengths. It built a vast underground tunnel, hired family members as border agents and even used a catapult to circumvent a high-tech fence.

Scanning Questions

1. The _____ cartel is one cartel trying to bypass the border.
2. _____ is a design consultancy.
3. Devin Liddell is based in _____.

Skimming Question

This excerpt is talking about:

1. The violence of the Sinaloa cartel.
2. Understanding how cartels operate.
3. How to cross the U.S / Mexican border.

Scanning Questions

1. The **Sinaloa** cartel is one cartel trying to bypass the border.
2. **Teague** is a design consultancy.
3. Devin Liddell is based in **Seattle**.

Skimming Question

This excerpt is talking about:

1. The violence of the Sinaloa cartel.
2. Understanding how cartels operate.
3. How to cross the U.S / Mexican border.

Homework

1. Like the video.
2. Join the Whatsapp Group
3. Let me know what you thought of the video in the comments section