

READING TIP

STUDY SKILLS: Look for the main information

When you read a text for the first time, you often don't need to read every word. Try to focus on the main information in the text. This is often at the start of each paragraph.

This Reading Worksheet is about scanning texts. It gives you a variety of tasks to practise this skill.

Practice

1 Tick the correct definition of scanning.

- a Scanning means reading to get the general idea of the text. When we scan, we read headings and topic sentences.
- b Scanning means reading for detail in a text. We read carefully to identify the writing style and the writer's opinion.
- c Scanning means reading to find specific information like names, times and dates.

2 Would you scan these texts? Tick Yes or No.

- | | Yes | No |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a a bus timetable | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b your calendar for the month | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c a short story | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d a job description | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e a TV schedule | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f a restaurant review | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

3 Scan the text to find the facts (a–g) on the following page.

Venice

Venice is a city in the north of Italy. It is the capital of the area called Veneto. It is built on more than 100 islands separated by 150 canals, at the top of the Adriatic Sea.

Around 400 bridges connect the islands that form Venice. A single road and rail link connect it to the mainland. This link is protected from the sea by sandbanks. One large canal, the Grand Canal, goes from north to south and divides the city into two.

There are no cars on the islands of Venice. The bridges are for pedestrians only. For hundreds of years, the most common method of transport was the gondola, a traditional boat controlled by a single oar. Today, these boats are mostly for tourists; small motorboats transport local people.



St Mark's

Tourism is very important to the economy. Every year, millions of tourists visit the city to walk around St Mark's Square, explore the canals and enjoy the annual film festival. The large islands of Murano and Burano are famous for glass products and Venetian lace.

- a the name of the city's most famous square _____
- b the names of two large islands _____
- c the name of the large canal that divides the city _____
- d a traditional type of boat _____
- e the name of the sea on which Venice sits _____
- f the number of bridges that cross the city's canals _____
- g the number of canals in the city _____

4 Scan the text and answer the questions.

Global life expectancy in the 20th century

In the last 100 years, the increase in global life expectancy has been huge. Healthcare has improved, more people drink clean water, and diets are healthier. In 1900, only 50% of children born in the USA could hope to live to the age of 50. Today, life expectancy there is 78 years.

Male and female life expectancy

There is a noticeable difference between male and female life expectancy. For men in the USA, it is 73.6 years, while for women it is 79.4 years. Life expectancy is much lower for African Americans: 67.2 years for men and 74.7 years for women.

Rich and poor


Life expectancy has increased more in the richest parts of the world. Life expectancy at birth in the USA in 1900 was 47 years. In India in 1950, it was only 32 years. Today, there is still a difference. According to a 2006 report, disease and famine mean that life expectancy in poorer nations is around half that in industrialized, richer nations.

The future

Scientists and doctors believe that soon, living to 100 years will be normal. Although nobody believes that people will live forever, it is difficult to say what a natural life expectancy will be by the middle of the 21st century.

- a What was life expectancy in the USA in 1900? _____
- b Where was life expectancy just 32 years in 1950? _____
- c When was a report written about life expectancy in rich and poor nations? _____
- d What is the average life expectancy for women in the USA today? _____
- e What will be normal by the middle of the 21st century? _____

Reflect

5  **In your own words, explain why scanning is an important skill and when you should use it. Compare your ideas with a partner.**

6  **Discuss the questions.**

- How well did you do the Practice tasks?
- Do you ever feel that you need to skim-read to get a general idea before you can scan for specific details?
- What can you do to improve your scanning skills?