

READING TIP

STUDY SKILLS: Know what to expect

Before you start reading something new, try to think what you are expecting to read about. Take clues from the title, pictures, the purpose of the text and the reason you are reading it. This will make you better prepared for reading.

This Reading Worksheet looks at predicting the content of a reading text. Here, you will have the opportunity to practise using clues to help you predict what a text contains.

Practice

- 1 Look at only the heading and the photographs. Predict what you expect to read about.

Are you still concentrating?

Scientists in Canada have shown that our attention span has dropped significantly since mobile technology became central to our lives.



- 2 Read the first sentence. Would you like to change any of the predictions you made in Exercise 1?

- 3  Which of the following sentences would you expect to find in the article? You can choose more than one. Discuss the reasons for your choices.

- a The average person in the UK picks up their phone 1,500 times a week.
- b Mobile technology allows us to communicate in an emergency.
- c There is no denying the ability to concentrate for a period of time is an important skill.
- d Young people were asked to rate films according to how boring they thought they were.
- e Sometimes, overthinking a problem can be counterproductive.

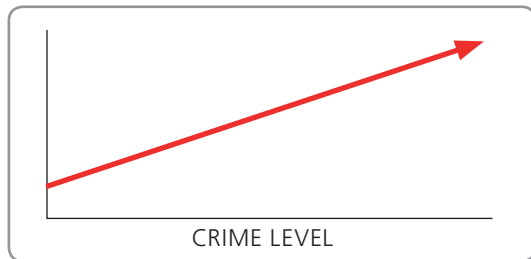
READING SKILLS

- 4** Look at the visual material below and on the next page. Imagine that each pair of images has been chosen to accompany an article. Discuss how the images might be linked and what kind of article they might accompany.

a



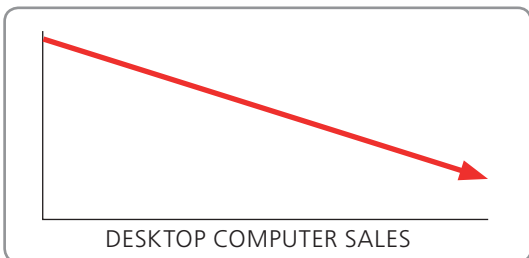
b



c



d



- 5** Read the end of the paragraph below and tick the sentences (a–f) that could naturally begin the following paragraph. You may tick more than one sentence.

The Maastricht Treaty came into effect in 1993, and it is from this point on that we begin to talk officially of a European Union (EU). At this point in time, there were 12 member states.

- a In the years that followed, there was an extended period of expansion.
- b In 1946, Winston Churchill gave a speech in which he envisioned a 'United States of Europe'.
- c The present population of the European Union is over 500 million.
- d Geologically speaking, Europe came into existence after Pangaea broke up.
- e Ten new countries joined the union in 2004.
- f It wasn't until 2002 that most members of the Eurozone started to use the euro as their currency.

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Reflect

- 6** Based on the information you have discussed on this Worksheet, complete the checklist below.

Things you can do to predict the content of a text

Ask yourself the following questions:

- Does it appear to be written by an expert? Is the language serious?
- Is the text from a reputable publication or website?
- _____
- _____
- _____
- Does the first sentence/paragraph give you any clues about content?
- Does the writer use references and/or statistics to back up his/her points?