

# READING POWER

Reading Faster • Thinking Skills

Reading for Pleasure • Comprehension Skills

BEATRICE S. MIKULECKY

Boston University

LINDA JEFFRIES



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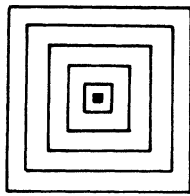
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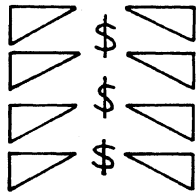
# Finding the Pattern of Organization

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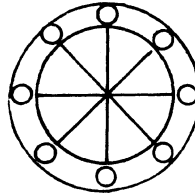
Study these pictures for 60 seconds. Your teacher will time you.



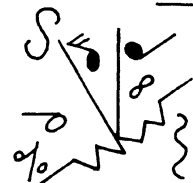
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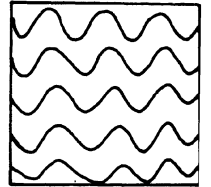
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5

After 60 seconds, turn the page. Try to draw the pictures. Do not look back.

Try to remember the pictures. Draw them here.

Now look back and check your drawings.

Which picture was the most difficult to remember? \_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

Pictures 1, 2, 3 and 5 were easy because they have a pattern. Picture 4 does not have a pattern, so it is more difficult to remember. In English, there are patterns, too. When you read, look for the patterns. They will help you understand and remember what you read.

There are many patterns in English. Writers often use these four patterns. Here are some examples:

1. Listing — Ways to travel:
  - plane
  - train
  - bus
  - ship
2. Time order — Wars in American history:
  - 1776 — American Revolution
  - 1812 — War of 1812
  - 1860 — Civil War
  - 1914 — World War I
  - 1940 — World War II
3. Cause-effect — Cause: heavy rain  
Effect: car accidents on the highway
4. Comparison — Comparing Paris and New York:
  - How are they alike?
    - expensive
    - beautiful buildings
    - many art museums
  - How are they different?
    - Paris is a capital city; New York is not a capital city
    - Paris is safer; New York is larger

## LISTING

### EXAMPLE A

Diamonds are very expensive for several reasons. First, they are difficult to find. They are only found in a few places in the world. Second, they are useful. People use diamonds to cut other stones. Third, diamonds do not change. They stay the same for millions of years. And finally, they are very beautiful.

What is the topic of this paragraph? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the main idea? \_\_\_\_\_

The underlined words are signal words. They tell us about the author's pattern of organization. The signal word for this pattern is several. It tells us to look for a list.

This list tells us several reasons why diamonds are expensive. Write the reasons here:

---

---

---

---

It was easy to find the reasons. There is a signal word for each reason:

#### Signals

first  
second  
third  
finally

#### Reasons

difficult to find  
useful  
they do not change  
beautiful

**EXAMPLE B**

There are many different kinds of pollution. One kind is air pollution. This usually is a problem over cities. Water pollution is another problem. It is found in rivers, lakes and oceans. Also, pollution of the earth is sometimes a problem near farms. And finally, there is even noise pollution, especially in crowded cities.

What is the topic of this paragraph? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the main idea? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the signal for this list? \_\_\_\_\_

Write the other signals. \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Signals</b>	<b>Kinds of pollution</b>
_____	air pollution
_____	water pollution
_____	pollution of the earth
_____	noise pollution

Here are some signal words for the listing pattern:

first second one and for example or some many  
third other another also finally even several

### Exercise 1

Read each paragraph. Underline the signal words. Write the topic, the main idea and the pattern signal. Then list the other signal words and the details. The Answer Key is on page 264.

#### 1

Computers are helpful in many ways. First, they are fast. They can work with information much more quickly than a person. Second, computers can work with lots of information at the same time. Third, they can keep information for a long time. They do not forget things the way people do. Also, computers are almost always correct. They are not perfect, of course, but they usually do not make mistakes.

- a. Topic \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Main idea \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Pattern signal \_\_\_\_\_

Signals	Details
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

#### 2

These days, it is important to know something about computers. There are a number of ways to learn. Some companies have computer classes at work. Also, most universities offer day and night courses in computer science. Another way to learn is from a book. There are many books about computers in book stores and libraries. Or, you can learn from a friend. After a few hours of practice, you too can work with computers. You may not be an expert, but you can have fun!

- a. Topic \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Main idea \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Pattern signal \_\_\_\_\_

Signals	Details
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

## Exercise 2

### 1

Today, computer companies sell many different programs for computers. First, there are programs for doing math problems. Second, there are programs for scientific studies. Third, some programs are like fancy typewriters. They are often used by writers and business people. Other programs are made for courses in schools and universities. And finally, there are programs for fun. There include word games and puzzles for children and adults.

- a. Topic \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Main idea \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Pattern signal \_\_\_\_\_

#### Signals

#### Details

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

### 2

Computer language can be funny at times. For example, we say computers have a "memory." We know they do not really remember or think. But we still say "memory." Also, on many computer programs there is a "menu." Of course, we are not talking about restaurants or food. This is a different kind of menu. Another funny example is the "mouse" in some computers. It is hard not to think about a real mouse when you hear the word. But do not worry: there are no little gray animals in the machine.

- a. Topic \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Main idea \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Pattern signal \_\_\_\_\_

#### Signals

#### Details

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____



### Exercise 3

#### 1

The first computers were very large machines. Now computers come in all shapes and sizes. There are still big computers for companies or universities. There are other special computers for factories. These large computers tell the factory machines what to do. But there are also small personal computers to use at home or in an office. There are even computers in telephones, television sets, and cars. These computers have to be very small. They are so small you cannot even see all their parts.

- a. Topic \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Main idea \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Pattern signal \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Signals</b>	<b>Details</b>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

#### 2

Computers are very useful, but they also can cause problems. One kind of problem is with the computer's memory. It is not perfect, so sometimes computers lose important information. Another problem is with the machinery. Computers are machines, and machines can break down. When computers break down, they may erase information, like chalk on a blackboard. Or they may stop doing anything at all. And there is another, different kind of problem with computers. Some doctors say they may be bad for your health. They say you should not work with computers all day.

- a. Topic \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Main idea \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Pattern signal \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Signals</b>	<b>Details</b>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

## Exercise 4

### 1

Almost every profession now uses computers. They are used for all kinds of work. For example, scientists use them. So do mathematicians and economists. Business people use them to make business decisions. Doctors also use computers to help their patients. Computers make work easier for writers, too. And even students now use computers to help in their studies. Finally, some people use computers at home to help them make plans and pay bills.

- a. Topic \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Main idea \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Pattern signal \_\_\_\_\_

#### Signals

#### Details

Signals	Details
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

### 2

Everyone knows that computers are useful. And there are many wonderful new computer programs. But there are other reasons to like computers. Some people like the way computers hum and sing when they are working. It is a happy sound, like the sounds of toys and childhood. Computers also have lights and pretty pictures. With a computer anyone can feel like an artist. And computers even seem to have personalities. That may sound strange, but computers seem to have feelings. Sometimes they seem happy, sometimes they seem angry. It is easy to think they are like people.

- a. Topic \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Main idea \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Pattern signal \_\_\_\_\_

#### Signals

#### Details

Signals	Details
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

## TIME ORDER

### EXAMPLE A

Albert Einstein was born in 1879 in Ulm, Germany. He graduated from the University of Zurich in Switzerland in 1905. In 1905 he also did some of his most famous work in physics. In 1919 he won the Nobel Prize for Physics. Between 1919 and 1933 he lived in Germany and traveled a lot to talk to other scientists. Then in 1933 he had to leave Germany because of Hitler and the Nazi party. He moved to the United States. From 1933 until his death he lived in Princeton, New Jersey. He died on April 18, 1955.

What is the topic of this paragraph? \_\_\_\_\_

How can you tell this is a time order pattern? \_\_\_\_\_

You can tell because the signals in this paragraph are all dates. Each date points to an event in the life of Albert Einstein. Here are all the signals. Write the events:

Signals	Events
1879	_____
1905	_____
1905	_____
1919	_____
1919-1929	_____
1933	_____
1933-1955	_____
April 19, 1955	_____

**EXAMPLE B**

This paragraph is about the same events as Example A. But the signal words are different.

Albert Einstein was born near the end of the 1800s, in Ulm, Germany. He graduated from the University of Zurich in Switzerland at age 26. That was also when he did his famous work in physics. Fourteen years later he won the Nobel Prize for Physics. For the next ten years he lived in Germany. He also traveled a lot to talk with other scientists. Then in the early 1930s he had to leave Germany because of Hitler and the Nazi Party. He moved to the United States. From that time until his death he lived in Princeton, New Jersey. He died at the age of 74.

Here are the signals. Write the events:

<b>Signals</b>	<b>Events</b>
near the end of the 19th century	_____
at the age of 26	_____
That was also when	_____
Fourteen years later	_____
For the next ten years	_____
In the early 1930s	_____
From that time until his death	_____
at the age of 74	_____

Dates are often signals for the time order pattern. Here are some other time order signal words:

first    next    soon    after    at last    finally    dates  
last    later    before    while    then    times

## Exercise 1

Read each passage. Write the topic and underline the signals. Then write the signals and the events on the lines. The Answer Key is on page 265.

### 1

The Vietnam War began soon after World War II. At first, in 1946, the war was between the Vietnamese and the French. The government was French, but many Vietnamese people did not want a French government. They wanted the French to leave so they could have their own government. The Vietnamese fought hard, and slowly they won more and more land. By 1953, the French army was in trouble. They were not winning the war. French soldiers were dying and the war was costing a lot of money. So, in 1954, the French army stopped fighting and left Vietnam. That was the end of the first part of the Vietnam War.

Topic \_\_\_\_\_

#### Signal

#### Events

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

### 2

The second part of the Vietnam War began in 1954. After the French army left, there were two Vietnams: North Vietnam and South Vietnam. There were also two governments. But both governments wanted to be the only government for all of Vietnam. So from 1954 until 1960, the North and the South were fighting all the time. The North Vietnamese grew slowly stronger. By the beginning of 1965, the North Vietnamese were winning the war. But the United States government did not want the North Vietnamese to win. So in March 1965, the United States began to help South Vietnam. They sent guns and airplanes to help the South. At first, the United States sent only a few soldiers. But by July 1965, there were about 75,000 American soldiers in Vietnam.

Topic \_\_\_\_\_

#### Signals

#### Events

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

## Exercise 2

### 1

In 1965 the Vietnam War became an American war. That year, the United States sent airplanes with bombs over North Vietnam. The North Vietnamese were moving into South Vietnam and the United States government wanted to stop them. More and more bombs were used each year. The bombs killed thousands of North Vietnamese men, women, and children. Thousands more lost their homes and their land. The United States also sent more soldiers every year. By the end of 1967, there were almost 510,000 Americans in Vietnam. And still, the North Vietnamese were winning the war.

Topic \_\_\_\_\_

#### Signal

#### Events

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

### 2

In the United States, some people did not want the war. In the early 1960s only a few people felt this way. But by the late 1960s many people believed Americans should not be fighting in Vietnam. Finally, the American government had to listen to these people. In May 1968, the Americans began to talk to North Vietnam about stopping the war. For the next few months, fewer bombs were used against the North. By the end of the year, the bombing stopped. It still took a long time to end the war. American soldiers started to go home in 1970. The last Americans left three years later.

Topic \_\_\_\_\_

#### Signal

#### Events

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

### Exercise 3

#### 1

Anh Nguyen is Vietnamese. She was born in 1960 in Hue, a large city in South Vietnam. When she was four years old her family moved to Saigon. She finished grammar school in 1972, and then she went to high school. The first year of high school was a happy year for Anh. She liked her classes, especially French and English. In the fall, she won a prize for a French paper. That winter she decided she wanted to go to study in France. Anh dreamed about France all year. She studied very hard for her French class, and in the spring she did very well on her examinations.

Topic \_\_\_\_\_

Signal	Events
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

#### 2

But Anh had to change all her plans because of the war. In 1973, life in Saigon was changing. The American soldiers were leaving. The war did not stop after the American soldiers left. But the South Vietnamese did not have a strong army anymore. They could not stop the North Vietnamese. In 1974, the North Vietnamese army moved into Saigon. That was the end of South Vietnam. It was also the end of the old life for Anh. For Anh and for others, there were new troubles that year. Food, clothing, and other things became more expensive. Sometimes the shops were empty. But there were worse troubles. Anh's father was taken away from his family because he once worked for the Americans. She never saw him again.

Topic \_\_\_\_\_

Signal	Events
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

**Exercise 4**

The next few years were unhappy and difficult for Anh. At first she continued to go to school. But she did not enjoy it anymore. She could not study English or French. After a while she stopped going to school and started working in a factory. Her family needed money and there were no other jobs. But she did not like factory work.

At last she decided she had to do something. She did not want to work in a factory all her life. She wanted an education. She wanted a more interesting job. So she decided to leave Vietnam and go to the United States. Other Vietnamese people had the same idea. In fact, from 1974 to 1976, hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese left their country.

The day came for Anh to say goodbye to her family. She did not know if she was going to see them again. She walked many miles to a small town by the ocean. She and about 40 other people got into a small boat. They left Vietnam at night.

For several days they sailed with no trouble. But the wind stopped and the boat stopped moving. They did not have enough food or water. Some people began to get sick. A boat came near them but it did not stop to help them.

Finally a large Japanese ship came near. It stopped and picked up all the Vietnamese. They were almost all very sick, including Anh. The ship took them to a camp in the Philippine Islands. This was a special camp for Vietnamese people. It was crowded in the camp, but Anh felt safe.

Anh had a cousin who lived in the United States. She wrote to him right away, and she asked if she could stay with him and his family in Boston. He wrote back and said yes. She showed his letter to the United States immigration office. She was ready to apply for an American visa. But she still had to wait many months for the visa. While she was waiting, she took English classes and studied hard.

Finally, almost one year later, she got her visa. A refugee group gave her a plane ticket and some money. She was ready at last to start her new life.

Topic \_\_\_\_\_

**Signal**

**Events**

Signal	Events
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____



## Exercise 5

Anh arrived in Boston in December, 1979. She had only her suitcase and her English dictionary. The only person she knew in the United States was her cousin Pho. He and his wife To-van were there to meet her at the airport. She was very happy to see them!

That evening Anh asked Pho and To-Van many questions. She wanted to know about Boston and about Americans. She was surprised that To-van often could not answer her questions. To-van's friends were all Vietnamese people. She shopped only at the Vietnamese stores in their neighborhood. She worked at Pho's Vietnamese restaurant nearby. So To-van did not know much about Boston, and she did not speak English very well.

That night Anh made a decision before she went to sleep. She decided that she did not want to be like To-van. She wanted to speak English well. She wanted to go to school with Americans and she wanted to work with them. Of course she did not want to forget about Vietnam. But she wanted to be part of her new country.

It was not easy. There were many new things in her life. The first winter in Boston seemed very cold to Anh. In January, she started studying at the high school. English was a serious problem. She could not understand her teachers and they could not understand her. Anh often felt very unhappy and alone. Her old home in Saigon seemed very far away and she missed her family terribly.

But by summer the worst times were over for Anh. Her English was much better, and she began to make some friends at school. For the next two years she studied very hard. In math, science, and French she was the best student in her class. She won a prize for a chemistry experiment.

But, best of all, at the end of her last year of high school, she won a scholarship to college. The scholarship was very important to Anh. She needed the money to go to college. Going to college was the key to success, she knew. Finally Anh had a plan. She planned to study science and computers in college. After college she could get a good job. She could earn money and send it to her mother. Then her mother could come to the United States, too. It seemed a long time to wait. But Anh knew she could do it! And she did.

Topic \_\_\_\_\_

Signal	Events
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

## CAUSE AND EFFECT

This pattern is not always easy to understand. These sentences show examples of causes and effects.

### EXAMPLE

Shoes with high heels can cause foot problems.

What is the cause of foot problems? *Shoes with high heels.*

What is the effect of shoes with high heels? *Foot problems.*

What are the signal words? *can cause*

### Exercise 1

Find the cause and the effect in each sentence. Underline the signal words. The Answer Key is on page 266.

- Exercise can make you hungry and thirsty.  
Cause \_\_\_\_\_ Effect \_\_\_\_\_
- Many car accidents happen because of ice and snow on the road.  
Cause \_\_\_\_\_ Effect \_\_\_\_\_
- Bad food and not enough sleep are two reasons for bad health.  
Cause \_\_\_\_\_ Effect \_\_\_\_\_
- Many doctors today believe that smoking cigarettes may lead to cancer.  
Cause \_\_\_\_\_ Effect \_\_\_\_\_
- Some people become nervous because of drinking coffee.  
Cause \_\_\_\_\_ Effect \_\_\_\_\_
- Many fires in homes are due to careless smokers.  
Cause \_\_\_\_\_ Effect \_\_\_\_\_
- Heart disease is sometimes the result of eating too much.  
Cause \_\_\_\_\_ Effect \_\_\_\_\_
- Very bright sunlight can cause your eyes to hurt.  
Cause \_\_\_\_\_ Effect \_\_\_\_\_
- High insurance costs are one result of car accidents.  
Cause \_\_\_\_\_ Effect \_\_\_\_\_
- Serious family problems can cause illness.  
Cause \_\_\_\_\_ Effect \_\_\_\_\_

**EXAMPLE A**

In this paragraph look for one cause and several effects. The signals are underlined.

A cold winter causes serious problems in Florida. It has a bad effect on farming. The farmers there grow a lot of oranges. Very cold weather can cause orange trees to die. Cold weather also results in fewer tourists. There are many hotels and vacation places in Florida. These places are in trouble if there are fewer tourists. And finally, very cold weather can cause health problems. Many people do not have heating in their homes. So they can become ill from the cold.

Topic: the effects of cold weather in Florida

<b>Cause</b>	<b>Signals</b>	<b>Effects</b>
cold weather	<u>causes</u> <u>can cause</u> <u>results in</u> <u>can cause</u>	problems orange trees to die fewer tourists health problems

**EXAMPLE B**

In this paragraph look for many causes and one effect. The signal words are underlined.

There are many different causes of car accidents in the United States. Sometimes accidents are caused by bad weather. Ice or snow can make roads very dangerous. Accidents also can result from problems with the car. Even a small problem like a flat tire can be serious. Bad roads are another cause of accidents. Some accidents happen because the driver falls asleep. And finally, some accidents are caused by drinking too much alcohol. In fact, this is one of the most important causes of accidents.

Topic: the cause of car accidents in the United States

<b>Causes</b>	<b>Signals</b>	<b>Effects</b>
bad weather car problems bad roads driver falls asleep drinking alcohol	<u>are caused by</u> <u>result from</u> <u>cause of</u> <u>because</u> <u>are caused by</u>	car accidents

Some cause and effect signal words:

because	results in	is a cause of	is the result of
because of	can make	had an effect on	is the reason for
lead to	causes	effects	
can help	can stop	due to	

## Exercise 2

Write the topic for each paragraph. Underline the signal words. Write the causes and effects on the lines.

1

Most people do not think of coffee as a drug. But, in fact, it is a drug and it has important effects on your body. Some of the effects are good and some are not. Coffee can help you stay awake when you are driving or working. But it can also keep you awake at night when you want to sleep. Coffee makes some people feel more alive so they can work better. Other people feel too nervous when they drink coffee. After a large meal, coffee can help your stomach. But too much coffee can cause a stomachache.

Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Causes</b>	<b>Signals</b>	<b>Effects</b>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

2

Aspirin is a simple drug. It has many useful effects. It can stop a headache or an earache. It helps take away pain in the fingers or knees. Aspirin can stop a fever if you have the flu. Or it can make you feel better if you have a cold. Some doctors believe that aspirin also can result in a healthy heart. They say that some people should take an aspirin every day. For those people, aspirin may stop heart disease.

Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Causes</b>	<b>Signals</b>	<b>Effects</b>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

### Exercise 3

Write the topic for each paragraph. Underline the signal words. Write the causes and the effects on the lines.

1

Scientists and doctors say that about 34 million Americans are too fat. Why is this? One cause is the kind of food Americans eat. Many Americans like "fast foods." These foods (such as hamburgers and ice cream) often have fattening things in them. Another cause is the way Americans eat. They often eat little snacks between regular meals. These extra foods add extra fat on the body. A third cause is not enough exercise. Americans like driving everywhere, instead of walking. They often have machines to do a lot of the work. Some Americans are also too heavy because of health problems. But for most of those 34 million Americans, the problem is the American lifestyle.

Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

**Causes**

**Signals**

**Effects**

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

2

If you are too fat, you may have serious problems with your health. A group of doctors wrote a report about some of the effects of too much fat. One important effect is on the heart. If you are fat your heart has to work harder. This may lead to a heart attack. Or it may lead to other heart problems. Extra fat can also change the amount of sugar in your blood. This can cause serious diseases such as diabetes. High blood pressure is another possible result of being fat. Even cancer can sometimes be a result. More studies are needed about all these problems. But one thing is clear: extra fat may make your life shorter.

Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

**Causes**

**Signals**

**Effects**

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

### Exercise 4

Write the topic for each paragraph. Underline the signal words. Write the causes and the effects on the lines.

1

Some people become very unhappy and ill every winter. Doctors used to think this problem was in their minds. But doctors are learning some new facts about this. Now they think that winter really does cause problems for some people. In the wintertime the days are short and often cloudy. People do not get enough light in the winter. This may cause illness and unhappiness.

Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

Causes	Signals	Effects
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

2

In the United States, poor city children are often ill because of their diet. Some children do not get enough food. Sometimes they do not get healthy food. Poor health is also caused by bad housing. The apartments may not have heat in the winter or fresh air in the summer. Poor health may also be the result of dirty water. Or it may be caused by crowded apartments and crowded schools.

Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

Causes	Signals	Effects
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

## COMPARISON

Compare an apple and an orange:

How are they alike?

*Both* are kinds of fruit.

*Both* are round.

*Both* have skins.

*Both* taste good.

How are they different?

They are *different* colors.

They taste *different*.

Oranges grow in *warm* places. Apples grow in *cool* places.

Sometimes oranges *do not have seeds*. Apples always *have seeds*.

Compare the United States and Canada:

How are they both alike?

*Both* are in North America.

*Both* have many people from around the world.

*Both* are very large countries.

*Both* have land on the Atlantic and the Pacific oceans

*Both* countries were once part of the British Empire.

How are they different?

Canada has two official languages, *but* the United States has only one.

The United States has *more* people *than* Canada.

Canada has *more* land in the north *than* the United States

Canada is a *younger* country *than* the United States.

Compare your country and the United States:

How are they alike?

How are they different?

Some comparison signal words:

Words to show likenesses; alike, similar, same, also

Words to show difference: different, unlike, more than, less than, but, however

**EXAMPLE A**

This paragraph tells only how two fruits are alike. Underline the signal words.

Lemons and limes are very similar kinds of fruit. They are both grown in warm places. They both have hard skins and soft insides. People do not usually eat whole lemons and limes. That is because both of these fruits have a very sour taste. They are often used in cooking desserts and main dishes. People make juice from lemons and also from limes. Finally, both fruits have a lot of vitamin C in them.

What is this paragraph comparing? \_\_\_\_\_

**Likenesses**

grown in warm countries  
hard skins and soft insides  
have a sour taste  
used in cooking  
people make juice from them  
they have a lot of vitamin C

**Signals**

both  
both  
both of  
They are used  
and also  
both

**EXAMPLE B**

This paragraph tells some ways lemons and limes are different. Underline the signal words.

Lemons and limes are both citrus fruits, but they are quite different. First of all, the color is different. Lemons are yellow. Limes are green. The taste is different, too. Also, lemons are grown all over the world. But limes are grown in only a few places. This is because lemons are an old kind of fruit. But limes are new. They are really a special kind of lemon. Scientists made them from lemons only about 50 years ago.

What is this paragraph comparing? \_\_\_\_\_

**Differences**

color  
taste  
where they are grown  
lemons are old; limes are new

**Signals**

different  
different  
But  
But



## Exercise 1

Underline the signals in each paragraph. Write the likenesses and differences on the lines. The answer key is on page 268.

1

Peter and Joe are roommates in Chicago. They both like to cook good meals and have dinner parties. But they have very different ideas about what to cook. Peter likes to cook lots of simple food. His favorite foods are steak, potatoes, and apple pie. But Joe prefers special dishes from far-away places. He likes to cook curries from India and sushi from Japan. Dinner at Peter and Joe's apartment is always delicious.

What is the paragraph comparing? \_\_\_\_\_

**Differences**

**Likenesses**

_____	_____
_____	_____

2

Poland and Italy may seem like very different countries. And of course, they are different in some ways. Poland is in the north of Europe, but Italy is in the south. Poland has a communist government, but Italy has a democratic government. However, there are also similarities. In both countries, the most important religion is Catholicism. In both Italy and Poland, history is very important to the people. And finally, both the Italians and the Polish are famous for their friendliness and good spirit.

What is this paragraph comparing? \_\_\_\_\_

**Differences**

**Likenesses**

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

## Exercise 2

Underline the signal words in each paragraph. Write the likenesses and differences on the lines.

1

The food in India is similar to the food in China. First of all, in both countries, rice is a very important food. It is served at almost every meal in India and China. Indian and Chinese cooking can be very spicy. And they are also alike because they both use many different vegetables. In both countries, the meat dish is not always the most important dish. Finally, these are both very large countries with long histories. So both include many different kinds of cooking. In India and China, each part of the country has its own favorite kinds of food and way of cooking.

What is this paragraph comparing? \_\_\_\_\_

### Likenesses

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2

People used to have very different ways of eating in Europe. Now everyone uses forks, knives, and spoons. But a thousand years ago, no one used forks at the table. They used only spoons and knives. Today most Europeans do not eat with their fingers. But back then many people picked up their food in their hands. In those days most people did not use glasses for drinking. Instead they drank from bowls or large wooden cups.

What is this paragraph comparing? \_\_\_\_\_

### Differences

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### Exercise 3

Underline the signal words in each paragraph. Write the likenesses and differences on the lines.

1

In some ways English breakfasts are very similar to American breakfasts. In both countries people usually eat large breakfasts. English and American breakfasts both include several dishes. They may include some fruit juice, cereal, and then eggs and toast. In both places, there may also be some meat with the breakfast. However, there are also some differences between American and English breakfasts. In England, people usually drink tea in the morning. However, most Americans prefer coffee. The English usually do not eat sweet things for breakfast, but many Americans like sweet bread or coffee cake.

What is this paragraph comparing? \_\_\_\_\_

**Likenesses**

**Differences**

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

2

American breakfasts are very different from breakfasts in Italy. In general, American breakfasts are much larger than Italian breakfasts. Americans may eat several different foods for breakfast. They may eat cereal and eggs and toast. But Italians usually just have bread and coffee. Many Americans also like to eat some kind of meat. Italians almost never eat meat early in the morning. Finally, American coffee is different from Italian coffee. Americans do not drink strong coffee in the morning. Italians always like their coffee strong and dark.

What is the paragraph comparing? \_\_\_\_\_

**Differences**

_____
_____
_____
_____

## Exercise 4

Underline the signals in each paragraph. Write the likenesses and differences on the lines.

1

Shopping for food in the United States today is not the same as it used to be. Fifty years ago every neighborhood had a little food market. Now every neighborhood has a big supermarket. These are very different places. The old markets were usually small and friendly. People from the neighborhood often stopped there to hear the news or to talk. However, this is not true in supermarkets. Supermarkets are very large and not very friendly. They are not good places for meeting friends or talking. People in supermarkets always seem to be tired and in a hurry. Often they are not very polite.

What is this paragraph comparing? \_\_\_\_\_

**Differences**

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2

Medical care is very different in England and in the United States. In England medical care is national. That means the government pays for all medical care. But in the United States it is private. That means each person pays for their own medical care. English doctors, dentists and hospitals are free. But in the United States they are all very expensive. Everyone in England gets medical care, even the poor people. It is not like this in the United States. Only Americans with a lot of money can pay for good medical care. Poor Americans sometimes get help from the government and sometimes they do not.

What is this paragraph comparing? \_\_\_\_\_

**Differences**

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## Exercise 1

## USING ALL FOUR PATTERNS

For each paragraph, decide what the pattern is (listing, time order, comparison, or cause-effect). Write the name of that pattern. Then read the extra sentences at the bottom of the page. Find the sentence that fits the pattern best. Write the letter of that sentence beside the paragraph.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ The kitchen in Linda's new house had many problems. The first problem was the sink. The water did not go down the drain. And finally, there was also a problem with the refrigerator. Water came pouring out and it made a terrible mess.

Pattern \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ Linda had a terrible time in her new house last week. On Monday, the sink was not draining well. She had to call the repair company. Next, on Wednesday, the stove broke. The repair person had to come back to her house. The repair person spent many hours working in Linda's house that week.

Pattern \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ Linda thought the problem with the stove was serious. But then she found out that the refrigerator problem was worse. The stove was not easy to fix. But the refrigerator was much more difficult. It was also much more expensive to fix the refrigerator.

Pattern \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_ Linda had a difficult week because of all the problems in her house. She couldn't cook any food because the stove did not work. And then, all her food was ruined because her refrigerator broke. She had to throw it all away. Linda was very upset. She almost decided to sell her new house.

Pattern \_\_\_\_\_

### Sentences:

- The refrigerator problem was also much messier than the sink problem.
- And then, on Friday, the refrigerator made a terrible mess.
- Linda decided to buy a new stove and a new refrigerator.
- Another problem was with the stove. It did not get very hot.
- She could not wash her dishes because of the broken sink.

## Exercise 2

For each paragraph, decide what the pattern is. Write the name of that pattern. Then read the extra sentences at the bottom of the page. Find the sentence that fits the pattern best. Write the letter of that sentence beside the paragraph.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Shakespeare was born in Stratford-on-Avon on April 16, 1564. For a few years he studied at a school near home. He moved to London when he was still young. By the age of 35, he was already a well-known writer.

Pattern \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ Two great writers were born in England in 1564. One was William Shakespeare. The other was Christopher Marlowe. Shakespeare lived until the age of 52. But Marlowe died suddenly when he was only 29. Both were famous in their time and both are still loved today.

Pattern \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ Many people ask why Shakespeare was so great. He was a genius, of course. He had many ideas about life and he had a wonderful way with words. But Shakespeare was also great because he lived at the right time. The English, in those days, were interested in new ideas. They loved plays and poetry.

Pattern \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_ Shakespeare wrote three kinds of plays. One kind of play was the history play. Another kind was the tragedy, such as "Macbeth."

Pattern \_\_\_\_\_

### Sentences:

- a. At the age of 18, he married Ann Hathaway.
- b. He also wrote many comedies, such as "A Midsummer Night's Dream."
- c. Shakespeare wrote many plays and some poetry. But Marlowe only finished four plays.
- d. A genius like Shakespeare had a chance to use his great mind.
- e. Some people think Shakespeare's plays were written by someone else.

# Using Reference Words

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Writers do not like to use the same word many times. They often use other words which mean almost the same thing.

## PRONOUNS

Sometimes pronouns are used instead of nouns. They are small words, but they are very important when you are reading. You will understand more if you pay attention to pronouns.

he	she	it	they	we	you
I	them	him	her	these	those

In these Examples, the pronouns are underlined:

### EXAMPLE A

Mary Simms lives in New York City. She has an apartment near Central Park. Mary jogs in the park. She thinks that jogging is good for her. So she jogs three times a week.

All the underlined pronouns take the place of the noun, Mary Simms. "Mary Simms" is called the referent.

### EXAMPLE B

Jogging is good for your health for a few reasons. It is especially good for your heart. If you do it a few days a week, your heart will be stronger. It is also good for your legs. And many people believe it is good for your mind.

All of the underlined pronouns take the place of the noun \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ is the referent.

## Exercise 1

In these sentences, the pronouns are underlined. Circle the referent. The Answer Key is on page 269.

1. Running is not a new sport. People were doing it hundreds of years ago.
2. Runners know that a good diet is important. They eat very healthy foods, especially before a race.
3. Every year, there are many long races in many parts of the world. Sports fans watch them on television.
4. The Boston race is called the Boston Marathon. This is one of the oldest races in the United States.
5. In some races, the winners get large amounts of money. But for almost 100 years, they got no money at all in the Boston race.
6. In 1985, more than 6,000 people ran in the Boston Marathon. They came from all over the world.

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## Exercise 2

In this passage, the pronouns are underlined. Write the pronouns and their referents on the lines below.

### The Boston Marathon

Every year, in the middle of April, thousands of people go to Boston. They go to run the Boston Marathon. This is one of the oldest road races in the United States. It began in 1897.

Each year, more runners join the Boston Marathon. They come from every part of the world. In 1984, 6,164 runners from 34 different countries ran in the Marathon. About 5,290 of them finished it.

The Boston race is 26.2 miles, or 42 kilometers. The runners go through thirteen towns during the race. It ends in the center of Boston. Crowds of people watch them as they go through the towns. They clap their hands and cheer for them.

**Pronouns**

**Referents**

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____



### Exercise 3

In this passage, the pronouns are underlined. Write the pronouns and their referents on the lines below.

Jogging is a very popular activity in New York City. In the winter, the weather is too cold for it. But in the spring, it is warmer, and many New Yorkers go out to jog in Central Park. This is a very good place to run.

Other New Yorkers also like to go to Central Park. Many of them go there with their dogs. Dogs can run in the park. Sometimes the dogs run after the joggers. They may try to bite them. So the joggers sometimes kick the dogs or throw stones at them. The dog owners do not understand. They wonder why the joggers do not like dogs. The park police are trying to solve this problem. They want all of the people to use the park in peace.

**Pronouns**

**Referents**

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

### Exercise 4

There are 17 pronouns in this passage. Write the pronouns and their referents below.

Mary Simms and Jim Fuller went jogging in Central Park last Saturday. They ran into a problem: a large white dog. It ran after them and tried to bite their legs.

They were scared and did not know what to do. Mary took a big stick and tried to hit the dog. She wanted to scare it away. But the dog just barked at her.

Then Jim threw a large rock at the animal. It hit the dog on the head.

The dog's owner was very angry.

"Stop hurting my dog!" she shouted. "It will not hurt you. It is just a puppy."

Then she took a large stick and tried to hit Mary and Jim.

Just then, a park police officer came along the path. He saw them fighting.

"This is terrible!" he said. "Stop fighting!"

**Pronouns**

**Referents**

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Sometimes pronouns can take the place of a group of words.

**EXAMPLE A**

The Central Park police officer often meets dangerous people. Some people go to the park to steal. Other people are there to sell drugs. And sometimes serious gun fights start in the park. The park police officer may meet any of these in the park.

**Pronouns**

these

**Referents**

people who steal  
people who sell drugs  
people who start gunfights

**EXAMPLE B**

It is not easy to be the mayor of a large American city. Many people need homes and jobs. The buildings and streets need to be fixed. The schools are old, and the students are not learning enough. The streets are dangerous at night because of crime. These are big problems, and the mayor must work on all of them.

**Pronouns**

These  
them

**Referents**

**Exercise 5**

In these passages, the pronouns are underlined. Circle the referents.

1. Running on a very hot day can be dangerous. It can cause serious illness.
2. Runners often wear special shoes, socks, shorts, and shirts. These are all important. But runners agree that shoes are the most important.
3. If you go to Central Park, you will see joggers, dogs, and bicyclists. They are all part of life in the park.

## Exercise 6

The pronouns in these passages are underlined. Circle the referents.

1. Two Frenchmen went up in a basket under a balloon. They built a fire to make the air hot. This made the balloon stay up in the air.
2. The pilot of a balloon can control its altitude. He can raise and lower the balloon to find a good wind direction. That is how a good pilot can control where the balloon goes.
3. Early photographers had to carry film and heavy equipment everywhere they went. But this did not stop them.
4. Hellen Keller was deaf and blind. She could not speak until she was seven year old. But these problems did not stop her. She became a famous writer and teacher.
5. A tornado is a very dangerous storm. It brings strong winds and it travels very fast. The strong winds can blow over cars, destroy houses, and kill people. And this happens in just a few minutes.
6. Tornadoes blow dust and dirt into the air. They make a cone shape in the sky. When people see this, they get ready for the storm.
7. When tornadoes touch the ground, they move along at about 35 to 45 kilometers per hour. No one knows which way they will go.
8. In a small town, a tornado can destroy a street full of homes and stores. Many people can be killed. The government tries to help when this happens.
9. Tornadoes are common in the middle part of the United States. Kansas, Arkansas, Nebraska, Iowa, and Missouri are states with many tornadoes every year. People in those states worry when they see a cone-shaped cloud in the sky.
10. The wind of a tornado is strong. No one knows exactly how fast the wind is in the center. The wind always breaks the machines used for measuring it!

## RELATED WORDS: SPECIFIC TO GENERAL

Related words are words which refer to the same idea.

### EXAMPLE A

David had a wonderful trip to Paris this spring. He loved the beautiful buildings in the French capital. To him, it was a city full of magic and beauty.

What does "French capital" refer to? \_\_\_\_\_

What does "city" refer to? \_\_\_\_\_

"French capital," "city," and "Paris" are related words.

### EXAMPLE B

The Pope visited Colombia, Peru, and Mexico last year. Crowds of Catholics greeted him in these countries. It was his first visit to that part of the world.

What does "these countries" refer to? \_\_\_\_\_

What does "that part of the world" refer to? \_\_\_\_\_

Both phrases are related to \_\_\_\_\_

When writers use related words, the second word is usually less specific, and the next is even more general.

### EXAMPLE C

French capital, Paris, city

1. Specific: Paris
2. Less specific: French capital
3. General: city

### EXAMPLE D

Colombia, Peru, and Mexico; that part of the world; these countries

1. Specific: Colombia, Peru, and Mexico
2. Less specific: these countries
3. General: that part of the world.

### Exercise 1

Put these related words in order from specific to general. Put number 1 above the most specific word. Put number 2 above the less specific word. And put number 3 above the most general word. The first one is done for you. The Answer Key is on page 270.

- 3            1            2  
1. Music, rock music, twentieth-century music
2. Japanese mountain, Mount Fuji, mountain
3. problems, water pollution problems, pollution problems
4. pine tree, evergreen tree, tree
5. musicians, Michael Jackson, popular musicians
6. Nicaragua, country, central American country
7. man, Dr. Diamond, dentist
8. place, Boston, city
9. *The New York Times*, newspaper, reading material
10. group, Diamond family, people
11. storm, tornado, wind storm
12. president, person, political leader
13. shirt, white shirt, clothing
14. flute, musical instrument, wind instrument
15. company, IBM corporation, organization

## Exercise 2

In each passage, there is a word underlined. Find and circle the related words in the passage. The first one is done for you.

1. Liz and Val moved to Paris last month. They like the city very much.
2. Hiroko plays the violin in the Boston Symphony Orchestra. The sound of this stringed instrument is very special.
3. The president of the city council gave a long speech. As the leader, she has to plan many new projects.
4. The tornado hit a small town in Kansas. The storm swept down the main street. The terrible winds caused five stores to fall down.
5. Lemons, limes, and oranges are all very good to eat. These citrus fruits are also very healthy for you. They are a good source of vitamin C.
6. Many Americans skip breakfast. They say they do not have time for food in the morning. But this is a mistake. The human body needs that meal.
7. Joanne's big car uses a lot of gasoline. She has to stop often to fill the tank with fuel.
8. We saw a lion with three little cubs at the wild animal park. The cats were lying on the rocks in the warm afternoon sun. We were happy to see such wonderful animals in such a nice place.
9. In some countries, the winter is long and cold. It is not a very popular season. Some people are so unhappy at that time of the year, that they get sick.
10. Astronauts from the United States and the Soviet Union all have one problem: they get motion sickness. This illness makes it difficult to do their work. Doctors and scientists are working on this problem.

### Exercise 3

Look back at Exercise 2B. Write the related words from each passage in order, from specific to general. The first one is done for you.

1. Paris  
city

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.



# Skimming

Speed is often very important when you are reading. You may have a lot to read, but not much time. For this kind of reading you usually do not want to know and remember everything. You only want to find out something about it. You can do this by skimming.

You may want to skim:

- newspaper or magazine articles.
- book covers in a book store (so you can find out if you want to buy the book).
- library books (so you can find out if they have the information you need).
- mystery, detective or other novels.

## SKIMMING FOR POINT OF VIEW

Skimming is helpful when you want to find out quickly about the writer. You may want to find out what the writer thinks about some idea. This is the writer's *point of view*.

When you want to know the point of view you do not need to read everything. You only need to read a few important words:

### EXAMPLE A

Dogs are often a problem at home. Many dogs are noisy and dirty. They may even be dangerous for small children.

Does this writer like dogs at home? no

You do not need to read all the sentences to learn this. You only have to read the words "problem," "noisy," "dirty" and "dangerous." From those words you can tell the writer's point of view. This writer is against dogs at home.

### EXAMPLE B

An apartment looks much nicer with some plants. The green leaves make it seem cooler in summer. The flowers give it a happy feeling.

Does this writer like plants in an apartment? \_\_\_\_\_

How do you know this? List the important words: \_\_\_\_\_

## Exercise 1

Read these sentences very quickly. Ask yourself, "Is the writer for or against the idea?" Then make a check beside the answer. You should finish the page in less than 60 seconds. Time yourself. The Answer Key is on page 270.

Starting Time \_\_\_\_\_

1. Candy is not good for your teeth. It is especially bad for children's teeth. If children eat a lot of candy, they will have problems later.

For \_\_\_\_\_ Against \_\_\_\_\_

2. Large cars can cause problems. They are more difficult to park than small cars. They also use more gas.

For \_\_\_\_\_ Against \_\_\_\_\_

3. In San Francisco, the air is always a comfortable temperature. It is never too hot or too cold. It is perfect weather all year.

For \_\_\_\_\_ Against \_\_\_\_\_

4. Some people take many vitamin pills every day. These people believe lots of vitamin pills are good for their health. But they are wrong. Too many vitamin pills can hurt you health.

For \_\_\_\_\_ Against \_\_\_\_\_

5. There is something sad about animals in the zoos. They never really look happy. Maybe they are thinking about their real home. Maybe they do not like people looking at them all the time.

For \_\_\_\_\_ Against \_\_\_\_\_

6. Computers are very helpful for all kinds of work. They are usually quicker and more correct than people.

For \_\_\_\_\_ Against \_\_\_\_\_

7. Computers may cause serious problems in our world. Now it is possible to keep a lot of information on a computer. The people who have that information may be dangerous.

For \_\_\_\_\_ Against \_\_\_\_\_

8. "A spoonful of sugar helps the medicine go down." This is from a popular song, but it is often true. Sometimes there are good reasons to give children sugar or candy.

For \_\_\_\_\_ Against \_\_\_\_\_

Finishing Time \_\_\_\_\_

## Exercise 2

Read these sentences very quickly. Ask yourself, "Is the writer for or against the idea?" Then make a check beside the answer. You should finish the page in less than 60 seconds. Time yourself.

Starting Time \_\_\_\_\_

1. Many people believe that meat is an important food to eat. It is not true. You do not need to eat meat at all. In fact, you may be more healthy if you do not eat meat.

For \_\_\_\_\_ Against \_\_\_\_\_

2. Travel is not always fun. Often there are problems with transportation, language or hotels. It is also very tiring to travel, and you can easily get sick.

For \_\_\_\_\_ Against \_\_\_\_\_

3. Today it is better not to have a camera when you travel. A camera is heavy and difficult to carry. It is also not necessary. You can buy good picture postcards almost everywhere.

For \_\_\_\_\_ Against \_\_\_\_\_

4. A bicycle is the best way to see a country. It does not need gas. It is not expensive. And you also get some exercise at the same time you are traveling.

For \_\_\_\_\_ Against \_\_\_\_\_

5. Bicycles can be very dangerous. You can hurt yourself by falling off the bicycle. You can also get seriously hurt if you are hit by a car.

For \_\_\_\_\_ Against \_\_\_\_\_

6. Everyone should learn another language. A second language is very useful these days. It also may teach you something about other people and places.

For \_\_\_\_\_ Against \_\_\_\_\_

7. It is not easy to move to another country. There may be problems with language or culture. It may be difficult to find a job or a place to live. And in another country, you do not have family or friends to help.

For \_\_\_\_\_ Against \_\_\_\_\_

8. Music often makes you feel better about life. It can make you happy if you are sad. It can make you relax when you are nervous.

For \_\_\_\_\_ Against \_\_\_\_\_

Finishing Time \_\_\_\_\_



2. Some kinds of birds cannot fly. The penguin is one of these birds. It lives mostly in the very cold Antarctic climate. Another kind of bird that cannot fly is the ostrich. It lives in Africa.

\_\_\_ listing                                        \_\_\_ time-order  
\_\_\_ comparison                                 \_\_\_ cause-effect

3. Lisa plans to travel in Europe this summer. In June she will visit Sicily. Then in July, she will bicycle in northern Italy. In August she will travel through France. By September, she hopes to be in Paris.

\_\_\_ listing                                        \_\_\_ time-order  
\_\_\_ comparison                                 \_\_\_ cause-effect

4. Headaches are often the result of psychological causes. For example, worrying about something can cause a headache.

\_\_\_ listing                                        \_\_\_ time-order  
\_\_\_ comparison                                 \_\_\_ cause-effect

5. The clambake is a popular New England dinner. It usually includes many different kinds of seafood. Clams are the most common kind of seafood at a clambake. There may also be lobster and mussels.

\_\_\_ listing                                        \_\_\_ time-order  
\_\_\_ comparison                                 \_\_\_ cause-effect

6. Many people do not like to use computers for writing. They prefer to use typewriters. They know computers are faster and more accurate. But they are more comfortable with typewriters.

\_\_\_ listing                                        \_\_\_ time-order  
\_\_\_ comparison                                 \_\_\_ cause-effect

7. Gold was first found in California in about 1840. The next ten years in American history are called the California Gold Rush. Many people moved to the west during those years to look for gold. By 1850, there were many new "Gold Rush" towns in California.

\_\_\_ listing                                        \_\_\_ time-order  
\_\_\_ comparison                                 \_\_\_ cause-effect

8. Cola and ginger ale are both kinds of soft drinks. Both these drinks have a lot of sugar in them. But Cola has caffeine in it, and ginger ale does not.

\_\_\_ listing                                        \_\_\_ time-order  
\_\_\_ comparison                                 \_\_\_ cause-effect

Finishing Time \_\_\_\_\_

## Exercise 2

Read these sentences very quickly. Read only to find the pattern of organization. Make a check beside the best answer. Try to finish the page in less than 60 seconds. Time yourself.

Starting Time \_\_\_\_\_

1. Leif Ericson was probably the first European to see America. He visited some of the northern areas in about 1000. The next European visitor to America was Christopher Columbus in 1492.

listing  time-order  
 comparison  cause-effect

2. The Spanish kings and queens sent many people to find out about America. Christopher Columbus was one of these people. Ponce de Leon was another. And Vasco da Gama was yet a third.

listing  time-order  
 comparison  cause-effect

3. Leif Ericson probably had a more difficult trip across the Atlantic Ocean than Christopher Columbus. Ericson sailed across the cold northern part of the Atlantic. But Columbus sailed across the south where it was warmer.

listing  time-order  
 comparison  cause-effect

4. Many American Indians died soon after the Europeans arrived. There was one important reason for this. The Europeans brought new kinds of diseases with them. These diseases caused thousands of deaths in a short time.

listing  time-order  
 comparison  cause-effect

5. Some of the early Americans did not want to come to this country. For example, there were many Africans who had come as slaves. Some Europeans had to come for religious reasons.

listing  time-order  
 comparison  cause-effect

6. When you study for an exam, you should follow these three steps. First, you should make sure you have all the information you need. Next you should put that information in order. Then you should make a list of the most important things.

listing  time-order  
 comparison  cause-effect

7. Some people believe that changes in the weather cause changes in their health. This may be the reason why many people get the "flu" in New England. In New England, the weather can change very suddenly.

listing  time-order  
 comparison  cause-effect

8. Many American history books leave out some important information. For example, they often do not tell much about the American Indians. They also leave out some history about women.

\_\_\_ listing  
\_\_\_ comparison

\_\_\_ time-order  
\_\_\_ cause-effect

Finishing Time \_\_\_\_\_

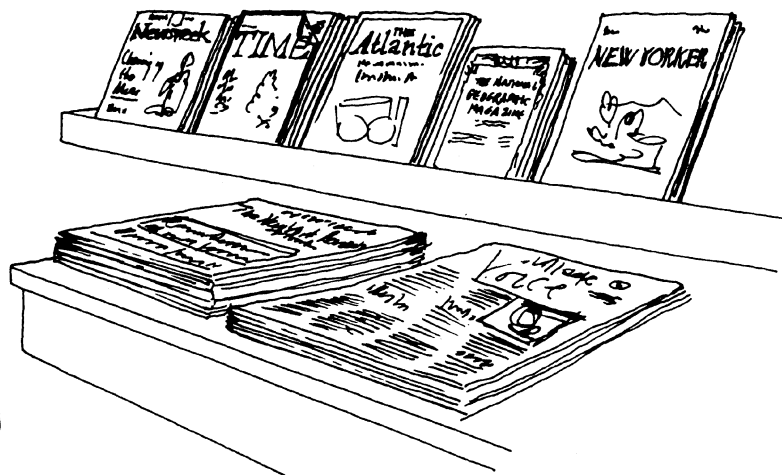
## SKIMMING FOR IDEAS

You can also skim when you want to find out the general idea quickly. Speed is important for this kind of skimming, too. You should skim at least two times faster than you usually read.

But you can only do this if you change the way you read. You cannot read every word or even every sentence. You have to leave out a lot. In fact, you should leave out everything except a few important words. These are the words that tell you the general idea.

Here are the steps for skimming a chapter from a book or an article from a magazine or newspaper:

1. Read the first few sentences at your usual speed. Ask yourself, "What is this about?"
2. Go to the next paragraph as soon as you can guess the general idea. Remember, you do not need to know the details. You only want to learn something very general about the chapter or article.
3. Read only a few words in each paragraph after that. You should look for the words that tell you more about the general idea. Often they are at the beginning of the paragraph. But they may also be at the end.
4. Always work quickly. Remember that details are not important.



**EXAMPLE**

Here is an example from a newspaper article. Most of the article is not there. You will only find a few sentences at the beginning and a few words in each paragraph. But you should still be able to learn the general ideas of the article. Read this article and try to answer the questions.

**Big Macs in Mexico**

McDonald's hamburgers are coming to Mexico. McDonald's is a world-famous company \_\_\_\_\_ Started in California \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ in Paris, Tokyo and \_\_\_\_\_ but not in Mexico.

Last year the Mexican government changed \_\_\_\_\_ open some McDonald's restaurants \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ "Big Mac," the McDonald's specialty. Some Mexicans are not happy \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ eat only hamburgers and forget about Mexican food.

1. McDonald's is a
  - a. kind of Mexican food.
  - b. Mexican company.
  - c. restaurant company.
  - d. kind of hamburger.
2. There were no McDonald's in Mexico because
  - a. Mexicans do not like hamburgers.
  - b. Mexicans only eat Mexican food.
  - c. there were McDonald's in other countries.
  - d. the Mexican government did not want them.
3. The "Big Mac" is a
  - a. restaurant.
  - b. kind of hamburger.
  - c. kind of Mexican food.
  - d. person who works for McDonald's.



## Exercise 1

Skim this book review as quickly as possible. Remember, you only want to find out the general ideas about the book. You should only read the underlined sentences. Then try to answer the questions. You may check your answers by reading the rest of the review. The Answer Key is on page 270.

### **Murder in the Language Lab**

by M.L. Allen

This book is an unusual detective story. It begins with a crime, a murder. A scientist is killed in a laboratory. But no one knows who killed the scientist. Inspector Barker is the detective. He must find the killer, but he needs help.

He gets help from Sally, a chimpanzee. She lives in the laboratory. In this laboratory, scientists are studying language. They are interested in how animals like Sally can learn some language. Sally is a very smart chimpanzee. She cannot talk, but she can understand many words. She can answer questions by using a computer. Sally saw the murder. She is afraid of Inspector Barker at first. But she wants to help. So, she tells Inspector Barker who the murderer is.

If you like detective stories, you will enjoy this one. But you probably will not be able to guess who the murderer is!

1. This story is
  - a. full of information.
  - b. sad.
  - c. fun to read.
  - d. difficult to read.
2. Inspector Barker
  - a. finds the murderer himself.
  - b. never finds the murderer.
  - c. is studying language.
  - d. gets help from a chimpanzee.
3. Sally is
  - a. a scientist.
  - b. a very smart animal.
  - c. not a very smart animal.
  - d. a murderer.

## Exercise 2

Skim this review as quickly as possible for the general ideas about the book. Remember you only need to read a *few* sentences and words. Then try to answer the questions. You should finish in less than 60 seconds.

### **Mother Teresa**

by Catherine Podijil

(Scott, Foresman and Company)

In 1979, Mother Teresa won the Nobel Prize for Peace. This book tells about her life-long work with poor people and how she finally became famous.

The story begins with her childhood in Yugoslavia. She was born in 1910. At the age of 18, she decided to become a nun. The Catholic religion was very important to her. But for her, the most important part of the religion was helping other people. She especially wanted to help the poor people in India.

She first worked as a schoolteacher in India. But her students were not poor people. So, finally, she left the school. That was when she began her real life's work. She walked the streets in Indian cities looking for people who needed help. She gave them food, clothing or medicine.

After a while, other nuns began to help her. She built hospitals and schools for the poor. She also started a special group of nuns called the Order of the Missionaries of Charity. They began to work with the poor people in many countries around the world.

Important people sometimes gave Mother Teresa money or cars for her work. But the money and cars always went to the poor people. She lived very simply and worked very hard. The Nobel Prize gave her \$100,000. She will use this money to continue her work.

This book gives many interesting details about her life and work. We may not be able to give our lives to the poor like Mother Teresa. But we can learn a lot from her.

1. This book probably
  - a. is fun to read.
  - b. is good for children.
  - c. has a lot of useful information.
  - d. tells about the problems of poor people.
2. Mother Teresa is famous because she
  - a. is an Indian.
  - b. helps poor people.
  - c. has a lot of money.
  - d. is a schoolteacher.
3. People gave Mother Teresa money
  - a. because she was poor.
  - b. so she could win the Nobel Prize.
  - c. so she could travel.
  - d. so she could help poor people.

### Exercise 3

Skim this newspaper article. You should finish in less than 60 seconds. Then answer the questions.

#### A New Drug for Heart Attacks

Doctors may now be able to stop many heart attacks. An important new study reports that doctors have a new drug. This drug is called TPA. It may be better than any other heart drug.

Many doctors now use a drug called Streptokinase. But this drug sometimes causes problems for patients. It can even cause bleeding in the brain. Some doctors do not use streptokinase. Streptokinase can save about  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the people with heart attacks. But TPA will save about  $\frac{2}{3}$ . This means many people. About 1.5 million Americans have heart attacks every year.

One reason TPA can help more people is because of time. This new drug is easier and faster to use. It will give doctors more time in hospitals. Then they can study the problem well. People with heart problems can also keep some TPA at home. When a heart attack starts, they can take some TPA right away. Then they will have time to get to the hospital. This is important because about 860,000 people in the United States die before they get to the hospital.

There is another reason why TPA is good news for people with heart attacks. According to the study, it is much safer. It does not cause other problems like streptokinase. TPA works only on the heart. It does not have an effect on the blood or cause bleeding, like streptokinase.

Doctors plan to do more studies about TPA. They need to test this new drug on many more people with heart attacks. But in a few years, many doctors and hospitals will probably start using this exciting new drug.

1. The new drug is
  - a. the same as streptokinase.
  - b. better than streptokinase.
  - c. called streptokinase.
  - d. bad for people with heart attacks.
2. The study says that TPA
  - a. is safer and faster than the old drug.
  - b. is very dangerous.
  - c. slower and harder to use than the old drug.
  - d. causes many problems.
3. This new drug may mean
  - a. more people will die from heart attacks.
  - b. the same number of people will die from heart attacks
  - c. fewer people will die from heart attacks.
  - d. no one will die from heart attacks.

## Exercise 4

Skim this magazine article. You should finish in less than 60 seconds. Then answer the questions.

### Sports in the German Democratic Republic

(adapted from the *World Press Review*, October 1984)

Many East Germans are already thinking about the year 2000. That is an Olympics year. The East Germans are very serious about the Olympic Games. They want to do well in 2000, so they are getting ready now.

Teachers, sports coaches, and parents are watching children at play. They are looking for children who will be good at sports. They say they can tell a lot about a very young child. They can already tell if the child will be good at sports.

These children will have special training. The Germans believe it is important to start at a very young age. The children may be only six or seven years old. For two hours, three times a week, they will train at a sport.

When they are a little older, they may go to the children's Olympic Games. These are specially for East Germans. The children come from all over East Germany for these games. In 1983, for example, there were 665,000 younger children and 332,000 teenagers at the children's Olympics. The children who win are the best in the country.

The winners at the children's Olympics continue to work hard. Rene Holitz, 13, is one of these teenagers. She won a prize in judo. Now she goes to a special sports school. Every morning she gets up at 6:30. She goes first to her regular classes. Then she spends six or seven hours a day training with her judo coach. She hopes to win the gold medal at the 2000 Olympics.

This is not an impossible dream. The East Germans often win many medals at the Olympics. Their planning seems to work well. Probably they will continue to win medals at future Olympics. And Rene Holitz may be one of the winners.

1. Many East Germans
  - a. have children.
  - b. are sports coaches.
  - c. care a lot about sports.
  - d. like to go running.
2. Rene Holitz probably
  - a. is a very unusual child in East Germany.
  - b. is not very good at sports.
  - c. is not very unusual in East Germany.
  - d. wants to study at the university.
3. The Germans believe you should learn a sport
  - a. when you are a teenager.
  - b. when you are very young.
  - c. when you are in college.
  - d. early in the morning.

## Exercise 5

Skim this magazine article. You should finish in less than 60 seconds. Then answer the questions.

### Women in China Today

(adapted from the *World Press Review*, March 1985)

What kind of jobs do women have in China today? Well, here are a few examples: Zhao Changbai is a manager of one of China's largest companies. Zou Hon is the manager of a large restaurant company. Wan Shiren is an important scientist who works in China's space program.

The list could go on. According to Zhang Guoying of the All-China Women's Federation, women are now important to the country. She says the government believes this too. China needs educated women to help make the country more modern.

This was not true 50 years ago. Then, there were few women in important jobs. Women worked mostly at home or in factories. But now there are more than 40 million women working in China. That is 40% of all the people who work. These working women include many women who work in factories. But now there are also many women scientific and technical workers—almost two million. And about 7,000 of these women are professors, engineers, chemists, and biologists. Some women are also working in important government positions, as governors or ministers.

It was not easy for these women, says Zhang Guoying. She believes that Chinese women have more difficulties than Chinese men. Women still have to take care of their families. That means they really have two jobs. One is at their office or factory and the other is at home. This is the same problem women have in many other parts of the world.

The government in China is trying to make life better for women. It is building more day-care centers for the children of working mothers. It is helping women get a better education and find better jobs. According to Zhang Guoying, the future for women in China should even be better.

1. In China today,
  - a. more women are working.
  - b. most women do not work.
  - c. fewer women are working.
  - d. women do not like to work.
2. Chinese women now
  - a. have jobs only in factories.
  - b. have few important jobs.
  - c. have important jobs.
  - d. do not work for the government.
3. For a Chinese women
  - a. life is now very easy.
  - b. work is now very easy.
  - c. life is still not easy.
  - d. families are not important.