

Previewing and Predicting

There are two skills that are essential for a good reader: Previewing and Predicting.

Before you start on a trip, you usually look at a map. It helps you plan your way. Then you know what to expect as you travel. This is a good idea in reading, too. Look before you read. Then it is much easier to understand.

Previewing is a **rapid kind of reading** that allows you to **get a general sense** of what a passage, article, or book is about and **how it is organized**. Your eyes examine quickly the page looking for answers to general questions about the material. The aim of **previewing is to help you to predict or make some "educated guesses"** about what is in the text. You should develop the habit of applying these skills whenever you read.

How to Preview a Text?

In previewing an article or essay, you look **at the title, any pictures, most of the first paragraph, the first sentence of each paragraph, the concluding sentences**, and watch for **numbers, italicized or bold words, and names**.

You should ask yourself questions like the ones below.

- What is the **title**? What is it about? What do I already know about this?
- Are there any **pictures, numbers**?
- What **kind of text** is this? Is it a description? An explanation? An argument? A narrative?
- Is the text divided into **parts**? How is it organized?
- Are there any **numbers, italicized words, or names** in the text?

Previewing and predicting before you read can **make a big difference**. You can get **some ideas about what you will read**. That way you will begin to **process the information far more quickly**. You will also be able to **follow the writer's ideas better**. Though it takes a **few minutes** to preview and predict, those few minutes are well invested. You will find that later you **save reading time and gain comprehension**.

Circle the best answer. Don't look back at the passage.

1. This passage is about
 - a. an American student in New York.
 - b. a Japanese student in New York.
 - c. a Japanese student in Japan.
 - d. a Japanese man studying in New York.
2. Tomiko is
 - a. unhappy.
 - b. happy.
 - c. lonely.
 - d. not busy.
3. She goes to plays in
 - a. large theaters.
 - b. small theaters.
 - c. New York.
 - d. all of the above.
4. Tomiko has
 - a. few interests.
 - b. few friends.
 - c. many interests.
 - d. nothing to do.

Now read the whole passage.

Passage A

A BUSY STUDENT

Tomiko is happy to be a student in New York. She is studying English at Columbia University. She plans to finish her English course in June. Then she will work on her master's degree at New York University.

Tomiko likes the many beautiful buildings in New York. In fact, she plans to become an architect. Then she can build great buildings, too.

Tomiko also likes the people in New York City. There are many different kinds of people. They speak many languages. Tomiko has made new friends from other countries.

Best of all, Tomiko loves the theaters in New York. She goes to plays almost every week. Sometimes the plays are in theaters on Broadway. Sometimes the plays are in small theaters in other parts of the city.

Tomiko is far from her home in Japan. But she is not sad. She goes to classes every day. She visits her friends. She goes to see new places. And she attends many plays. She is very busy and happy in New York.

Passage B

LANGUAGE LEARNING IN THE UNITED STATES

Most people in the United States speak only one language: English. They do not learn to speak a second language. High schools teach languages. But very few students learn to speak well. Why don't Americans speak other languages?

First, most Americans never travel to other countries. The United States is a very large country. Americans can travel a long distance and not leave the United States. They do not need to learn a second language.

Second, one of the countries next to the United States is Canada. Most people in Canada speak English. Some Americans live near Canada. They travel there often. But they do not have to learn a new language.

Third, many people in other parts of the world speak English. If Americans travel to other countries, they can speak English there, too.

Some Americans think that it is a mistake to speak only English. They believe it is very important to learn a second language. Maybe someday other Americans will agree. Then more people will speak a second language in the United States.

Circle the best answer. Don't look back at the passage!

1. Most Americans never learn to speak
 - a. English.
 - b. a second language.
 - c. to people in other countries.
 - d. fluently.
2. Most Americans speak only English because
 - a. they can't learn another language.
 - b. they never travel to other countries.
 - c. other languages are not important.
 - d. they don't have language classes in school.
3. In other parts of the world,
 - a. everyone speaks English.
 - b. no one speaks English.
 - c. many people speak English.
 - d. everyone speaks a second language.
4. Some Americans think it is a mistake to
 - a. learn other languages.
 - b. speak only English.
 - c. travel to other countries.
 - d. go to school.



BODIES ON ICE

In very cold parts of the world, scientists study the past. They find animals frozen in the ice. The animals look alive, but they are not. They were frozen many years ago.

Russian scientists found a large animal called a mastodon in the ice. It looked like an elephant. But it was larger, and it had lots of hair. In fact, the elephant is the mastodon's younger cousin.

In 1984, American scientists were working near the North Pole. They found the body of a man frozen in the ice. This man went to the North Pole in 1846. He died, and his friends buried him in the ice. Today, his body looks the same. It did not change at all in the ice.

These facts interest doctors. They have some patients who are very sick. No one can help these patients. But some day there may be a new medicine for them. These doctors want to save people for the future. Maybe patients can be frozen until there is medicine to help them.

Circle the best answer. Don't look back!

1. Scientists are studying the past
 - a. in the ice.
 - b. in the laboratory.
 - c. in 1848.
 - d. in Russia.
2. Russian scientists found
 - a. a man in the ice.
 - b. a large animal in the ice.
 - c. it was too cold.
 - d. nothing interesting.
3. American scientists worked
 - a. in Russia.
 - b. in the laboratory.
 - c. near the North Pole.
 - d. with a mastodon.
4. Doctors think frozen bodies
 - a. are too cold.
 - b. are near the North Pole.
 - c. are interesting.
 - d. are mastodons.

Find the right story for each picture.

Pictures

Names of stories

1. _____



2. _____



3. _____



4. _____



5. _____



a. Women in Science

b. How Americans Shop for Food

c. How Beavers Build Their Homes

d. When Your Child Goes to the Dentist

e. The Violin in the Symphony Orchestra

Exercise 3

Will you find these ideas in the story? Check Yes or No.

Boston: A Good Place to Live

	Yes	No
1. There are many poor people in Boston.		
2. The spring flowers are beautiful in Boston.		
3. There are many universities in Boston.		
4. Jobs are hard to find in the Boston area.		
5. Winters in Boston are cold and snowy.		
6. Boston City Hall is very beautiful.		
7. There are many famous old buildings in downtown Boston.		
8. People are not very friendly in Boston.		
9. The Charles River flows by the city. People like to walk along the river in the parks.		
10. Apartments are very expensive and hard to find.		

Exercise 4

Will you find these ideas in the story? Check Yes or No.

Modern Dentists: How They Can Help You

	Yes	No
1. Dentists hurt your teeth.		
2. Dentists have many new machines.		
3. Some dentists play the radio for their patients.		
4. Some dentists will pull out all your teeth.		
5. A nurse cleans your teeth at the dentist's office.		
6. The dentist's office is very comfortable.		
7. Dentists want everyone to have healthy teeth.		
8. A visit to the dentist is too expensive.		
9. The dentist may x-ray your teeth.		
10. Modern dentists must study for many years.		

PREDICTING THE NEXT IDEA

EXAMPLE

Yesterday, there was a big snowstorm in Boston.

Which idea comes next?

- a. It was a warm, sunny day.
- b. It was very cold, but the snow on the trees looked beautiful.
- c. Only one inch of snow fell.

The correct answer is b.

- a. is not correct. It is not warm and sunny in a snowstorm.
- c. is not correct. In a big snowstorm, many inches of snow fall.

Read the sentence. Then tell which idea comes next. Work with another student.

1. There were many good shows on TV last night. The Smith family stayed home.
 - a. They turned off the TV and went to bed early.
 - b. The only interesting show was about traveling by bicycle.
 - c. They saw a play, a music show, and the news.
2. John and Alice Babson are not happy with the school in their town.
 - a. Their children love to go to school.
 - b. The classes are very crowded.
 - c. It is a beautiful building.
3. The roads were covered with ice and were very dangerous today.
 - a. Sam drove home very quickly.
 - b. Sam took a long time to drive home.
 - c. Sam enjoyed driving home.
4. Boston is a nice place to live in, but New York City is more fun.
 - a. New York is a very dangerous city.
 - b. There are many interesting things to do in New York.
 - c. There are no good restaurants in New York.
5. Fly Happy Time Airlines! Take an exciting trip to Holiday Island.
 - a. This trip is very expensive.
 - b. Holiday Island has warm, sunny weather.
 - c. Happy Time Airlines is never on time.
6. Alex had trouble falling asleep last night. He was awake until 3 a.m.
 - a. This morning, he feels rested and ready to work.
 - b. This morning, he is very hungry.
 - c. This morning, he feels very tired.
7. Dr. Hammond was busy with his patients all day. He did not have time for lunch.
 - a. He may not be hungry at dinner time.
 - b. He had a very easy day.
 - c. He will be very hungry at dinner time.
8. Judy and Alan moved to a new apartment near the university.
 - a. Now they need a car to drive to class.
 - b. Now they can walk to class every day.
 - c. Now they will not be near the university library.
9. Max works all day in a shoe store. At night, he takes business classes at the university.
 - a. Max wants to have his own business some day.
 - b. Max has lots of free time.
 - c. Max is not very busy.
10. "Eat at Joe's Diner! We serve breakfast from 6 to 10!"
 - a. No one likes the breakfasts at Joe's!
 - b. And the breakfast costs only \$1.00!
 - c. The food is cold and the service is slow!

Carmelita's Amazing Rescue

At the Santos family's apartment in Sao Paulo, the doorbell is constantly ringing. All the friends and neighbors are there to hear what happened to two-year-old Carmelita. Her mother has tears in her eyes, but they are tears of relief, of thankfulness. Her Carmelita is smiling shyly, safe in her father's lap.

The story could easily have had ended very differently, not so happily. It all started this morning just before noon. Mrs. Santos was returning from the supermarket with her daughter and a friend, their neighbor. They stopped on the stairway of their building at their fifth floor apartment. The neighbor opened her door first, and little Carmelita ran past her. She knew the apartment well, since she had visited it many times. The friend put down her keys and shopping bags, and turned back a moment to Mrs. Santos. At that moment, there was a sudden gust of wind and the door to the apartment slammed shut. Carmelita was inside, alone.

The friend remembered then that she had left her kitchen window open. She and Mrs. Santos rushed to the Santos' apartment and telephoned the police. But there was no time to get help in opening the neighboring apartment. They could see that Carmelita was already leaning out of the kitchen window. She had climbed

onto a chair, and soon she was climbing out onto the window sill. Mrs. Santos called to Carmelita to go back inside. But the little girl did not understand the danger and did not want to go back. She only waved to her mother.

Then she lost her balance and her feet

slipped off the window sill. She managed to hold on for a while with her hands, but she began to be afraid. Her mother screamed for help, and now Carmelita was crying desperately. And then she could hold on no longer.

But several people had run out into the street on hearing all the screaming. They saw the child hanging onto the window sill and got ready to catch her. Down she fell, five long stories—and landed safe and sound in the arms of three strong men. They were Luis, Augusto, and Alfonso Nunes, father and sons. When they heard the

screams, they were in their auto repair shop across the street.

"I never thought we'd do it," said Alfonso afterwards. But I kept thinking, if we don't catch her, she'll die and it'll be on my conscience all my life."

All the neighbors want to shake hands with the three heroes. Carmelita's parents cannot believe how close they came to losing their daughter. And how lucky they are to have her still.



➤ **Answer the questions. Remember, do not look back!**

1. Where do you think this passage originally appeared?
2. Where does this take place?
3. Who is Carmelita?
4. What happened to her?
5. Who is Alfonso and what did he do?

Long Live Women!

Both men and women are living longer these days in the industrialized countries. However, women, on the average, live longer. In general, they can expect to live six or seven years more than men. The reasons for this are both biological and cultural.

One important biological factor that helps women live longer is the difference in hormones between men and women. Hormones are chemicals which are produced by the body to control various body functions. Between the ages of about 12 and 50, women produce hormones that are involved in fertility. These hormones also have a positive effect on the heart and the blood flow. In fact, women are less likely to have high blood pressure or to die from heart attacks.

The female hormones also protect the body in another way. They help the body to defend itself against some kinds of infections. This means that women generally get sick less often and less seriously than men. The common cold is a good example: women, on average, get fewer colds than men.

Women are also helped by their female genes. Scientists are still not exactly sure how genes influence aging, but they believe that they do. Some think that a woman's body cells have a tendency to age more slowly than a man's. Others think that a man's body cells have a tendency to age more quickly. Recent research

seems to support both of these possibilities.

The cultural context can also influence life expectancy for men and women. (Life expectancy is the expected length of a person's life.) For example, women generally smoke cigarettes less than men. They also drink less alcohol on average. Both cigarettes and alcohol have been proven to cause many health problems and to shorten lives.

Another factor that has influenced the lives of women is the lack of stress. Stress is well known to shorten lives. Until recently, women who worked were usually in less responsible, less stressful positions. At home, housework tends to keep women in better physical condition than men. This generally better physical condition is yet another factor in women's longer lives.

These cultural factors have played an important part for the women who are now getting old. But the social habits of women are changing. Young women are smoking and drinking more than women used to. More women are working now and holding more responsible positions. These changes may mean that the cultural context will no longer help women live healthier lives. However, the other, biological factors in life expectancy remain unchanged. Women probably will therefore continue to live longer than men.

➤ **Answer the questions. Remember, do not look back!**

1. What is this article about?
2. What are some biological reasons for women's long lives, according to this article?
3. What are some of the other reasons mentioned?
4. Does the author think the situation is likely to change? Why?
5. Is the information in this article new to you?