บทที่ 11
เทคนิคการอ่านแบบ Skimming และ Scanning

เทคนิคการอ่านเร็วที่สำคัญและมีประโยชน์ 2 แบบ คือ การอ่านแบบสกิมมิง (Skimming) และการอ่านแบบสแกนเน้น (Scanning) สองเทคนิคนี้จะช่วยให้ผู้เรียนสามารถอ่านเร็วได้รวดเร็วและเข้าใจเรื่องที่อ่านได้ทันที ผู้เขียนขอบอกทางการอ่านบางคนเรียกว่า ทักษะการตัดทอน (Searching Skill) ซึ่งเป็นทักษะที่ผู้เรียนควรได้ฝึกฝนให้เกิดความชำนาญดีไป

1. การอ่านแบบสกิมมิง (Skimming)

การอ่านแบบสกิมมิง คือ การอ่านข้อความอย่างเร็ว ๆ เป็นจุด ๆ เช่น อ่าน 2-3 คำแรก หรือ 2-3 ประโยคแรกแล้วข้ามไป อาจข้ามเป็นประโยคหรือเป็นบรรทัด หรืออ่านเฉพาะประโยคแรกและประโยคสุดท้ายของแต่ละย่อหน้า หรืออ่านเฉพาะคำหรือข้อที่สำคัญ ๆ การอ่านแบบนี้จุดมุ่งหมายหลัก 2 ประการ คือ อ่านเพื่อเก็บประเด็นหรือใจความสำคัญ และอ่านเพื่อเก็บรายละเอียดที่สำคัญบางอย่าง

การอ่านแบบสกิมมิงมีประโยชน์ที่จะช่วยประหยัดเวลาในการอ่าน เพราะช่วยให้ผู้อ่านอ่านเร็วต่าง ๆ ได้เร็วขึ้น และเข้าใจใจความสำคัญที่อ่านได้โดยไม่จำเป็นต้องอ่านรายละเอียดตลอดทั้งเรื่อง

2. การอ่านแบบสแกนเน้น (Scanning)

การอ่านแบบสแกนเน้น คือ การอ่านผ่าน เป็นการอ่านอย่างเร็ว ๆ รวด ๆ เพื่อจะจับประเด็นที่เราต้องการ เช่นชื่อคน เวลา ตัวเลข คำสำคัญบางคำ เป็นต้น ขณะที่อ่านแบบสแกนเน้นนี้ จึงควรระลึกตลอดเวลาว่า เราอยากจะหาข้อมูลหรือคำตอบอะไรจากเรื่อง
Exercises

A. Skim the following passage and then answer the two questions below.

1. When was the White House first occupied?

2. According to the passage, why was the President’s house called the ‘White House’?

The White House, the official home of the President of the United States, was designed by the architect, James Hoban, who is said to have been influenced by the design of a palace in Ireland. The building was begun in 1792 and was first occupied by President and Mrs. John Adams in November 1800. The house received its present name when it was painted white after being damaged by fire in 1814.

B. Find the main idea in each of the following passages.

1. In contemporary times, the roles of children have changed in a number of ways. The first change pertains to parental care strategies. In traditional times, children provided parents with both short- and long-term assistance. Presently, the degree of support largely depends upon the child’s and her/his parents’ educational aspirations. For children pursuing a higher education, parents are willing to forfeit immediate assistance in favor of long-term parental support/old age security. Among children who have received a primary level of education, they can more quickly help their parents as sources of family labor or money.
(if they migrate out of the village for work). It is not unusual to find parents who actually encourage their children to move to urban areas to earn money and send it back to their family.

2. Research shows that people who exercise are not only more physically fit, but also more mentally alert and emotionally stable than their couch-potato cousins. Because they are in prime physical form, they like how they look, have better self-esteem and find it easier to maintain their ideal weight.

3. One or two cups of coffee a day can provide extra energy when you need it. Consuming more than 250 to 300 milligrams a day can leave you jittery or, if caffeine is consumed too close to bedtime, unable to sleep. Thus, coffee has both advantages and disadvantages if you drink it.

4. Is one of your New Year’s resolutions to quit smoking? An American researcher says using a combination of nicotine patches and a blood pressure medicine may give you a better chance at succeeding. Dr. Jed Rose, head of Durham Veterans Medical Center’s Nicotine Research Lab, says a new treatment using nicotine patches plus daily doses of mecamylamine is about eight times more effective in keeping smokers away from cigarettes than the patches alone. Patients need to undergo the treatment for only two months. In hospital trials, this treatment successfully kept 37 percent of patients off cigarettes for one year.
A foreign visitor to England finds English education hard to understand. This is because there is not just one educational system but a number of systems existing side by side.

First of all we can divide the schools into three kinds according to whom they belong to. There are private schools, public schools and state schools. The private schools are run as private profit-making businesses usually owned by the headmaster. They are mostly for younger children. The parents pay fees. Secondly there are the public schools. They are public in the sense that they are not privately owned by individuals but they are not owned by the government. They are governed by their own school committees. They charge fees but do not aim to make a profit.

1. How does English education seem to the foreign visitor?
2. What are the different kinds of school in England?
3. Who usually owns the private schools?
4. Which school do most young children go to?
5. Who usually owns the public schools?

Aesop's Fables
People throughout the world are familiar with the fables attributed to Aesop. People told and retold these stories for over nine hundred years before they were first written down in the third century A.D. The fables are full of useful advice for people everywhere. They have been adapted to appeal to both young and old. Many people think that a person’s education is incomplete without them. Because they are so well known, we easily recognize and understand sayings like “Slow and steady wins the race” and “Persuasion is better than force.” The fables typical of those written by Aesop are short, have human interest, and point out an important lesson to learn.

6. What is a fable?
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7. How long ago were the Aesop’s fables written down?
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Tigers

The tiger’s camouflage is very important because it catches other animals for its food. If the animals could see a tiger coming, they would quickly escape. It has strong, sharp teeth which it uses for seizing and eating the animals it catches. A tiger’s chief food is deer, wild pigs, monkeys and other small animals, but it will also kill cows. A tiger is also very strong and if it kills a deer or a cow, it will often drag the dead animal several hundred yards to the shelter of some bushes, where it can eat its meal in peace. Tigers usually hunt and eat at night, and during the daytime they lie resting, hidden in the long grass. Tigers do not like great heat and when it is very hot, they find a resting place by a river or in some wet ground.
8. What is camouflage?

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9. Why is the camouflage useful to the tiger?

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10. What are the tiger’s teeth like?

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11. What does the tiger eat mostly?

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12. What does it eat sometimes?

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13. How can we see that the tiger is strong?

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14. Where does the tiger eat its meal?

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15. When do tigers hunt?

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16. What do they do in the daytime?

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17. Where do they like to rest?

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Johnny Haynes—Captain of England

An English Football Association team which toured South and Central America in 1959 was defeated in three games one after the other. Some of the English players were criticized in the English Press and several papers suggested that John Norman Haynes, a brilliant inside forward who had seemed to play badly on the tour, should be left out from the side due to play Russia at Wembley Stadium in London. The board of selectors, however, decided to keep him in the side.
Haynes played at Wembley. Shortly before half-time, when the scoreboard showed England 0, Russia 0, he took a pass from Tom Finney and drove the ball into the net. Midway through the second half he scored again. Then ten minutes before the end he scored a third goal. England beat Russia 5-0.

18. Who was John Norman Haynes?
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19. What happened to the English team in 1959?
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20. What position did Haynes play in?
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21. Where is Wembley?
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22. When did Haynes score his first goal?
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23. What was the score at half-time?
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24. When did Haynes score the second time?
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25. When did Haynes score the third time?
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26. How many goals did the other players score?
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27. How many goals did the Russians score?
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The Olympic Games

When the next Olympic Games begin, satellites will carry T.V. pictures of the opening ceremony to millions of people thousands of miles away. From their armchairs these people will be able to see their country’s athletes competing in various events.

When we consider the size, the spectacle and the commercialism of the modern Olympic Games, it is difficult to remember that they started in Olympia in Greece in 776 BC with only one race, a sprint, for which the prize for the winner was an olive wreath. Therefore, it is appropriate that the first modern Olympic Games opened in Athens in 1896.

The games have also become politically important. They can now be seen by nearly every country in the world and are therefore an ideal platform for political statements. When Soviet troops invaded Afghanistan in 1980, many countries in the West boycotted the Moscow Games. In 1984 some countries decided not to send teams to the Los Angeles Games because they felt there was not enough security and that they were too commercial.

In circumstances like these, the Olympic ideal and spirit comes into question. And for athletes there is less value in winning a gold medal if the best of the world’s athletes are not competing. The question is—how much longer will the Games survive if nations continue to use them as a political platform?

28. How long ago was the first game in Olympia?

29. How was it different from the modern Olympic Games?
The Night the Martians Landed

The evening of October 30th, 1938, was just like any other quiet Sunday night to most of the people of America. Many families were at home reading the papers or contentedly listening to the radio. There were two programs that night which attracted large audiences. One was a comedy and the other a play produced by the actor-writer Orson Welles. He was presenting a dramatization of H. G. Wells's classic science-fiction novel ‘The War of the Worlds’.

The listeners prepared themselves for an hour of comfortable excitement but, after the opening announcement, the play did not start. Instead there was dance music. Then, just as people were beginning to wonder if something had gone wrong, an announcer broke in with a dramatic ‘news-flash’. In an excited voice, he said that a professor in an observatory had just noticed ‘some gas explosions on the planet of Mars’. This news was followed by a stream of rapid on-the-spot broadcasts. These told the now uneasy listeners that ‘a metal spaceship containing Martians armed with death-rays’ had landed near Princeton, New Jersey, ‘killing about 1,500 persons’. The Martians had come to make war on the world.
35. How long ago did this story happen?
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36. What were the people doing?
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37. What programs were on the radio that evening?
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38. Who was Orson Welles?
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39. What is a dramatization?
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40. Who was H. G. Wells?
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41. What was the ‘news-flash’ about?
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42. What weapons did the Martians have?
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43. According to the ‘news-flash’ where did the Martians land?
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44. How many people were killed by the Martians?
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Galileo

Galileo was born in 1564. He was an excellent mathematician and by 1589 he was a professor of mathematics at the University of Pisa and fascinated with experimental science.

At this time the Church taught, and nearly everybody believed, that the earth was the centre of the universe and that the sun and the planets and the moon moved round it. Before Galileo was born, the Polish astronomer Copernicus published a book advancing the theory that the earth and the planets went round the sun. The Church condemned this and in 1600 they burnt a man called Giordano Bruno who said that he agreed with Copernicus.

Galileo heard of the invention of the telescope by a Dutchman, Lippershey, and made himself one. During the winter of 1609-1610, Galileo made a series of important discoveries which were to change the whole course of astronomical history and which brought great misfortune on Galileo himself. The telescope was only a small one by modern standards, yet even so Galileo discovered the mountains on the moon, the changes in the appearance of the planet Venus, spots on the sun, and the four moons of the planet Jupiter. He also found that the Milky Way, which stretches across the sky as a luminous band, is made up of a vast number of faint stars.

Galileo wrote a book in which he described these discoveries. At once he met with opposition; one man accused him of bewitching the telescope and refused to look through it at all. But the real trouble was that Galileo’s work confirmed his belief in the Copernican theory. Galileo was warned by the Church leaders and for many years he was left more or less alone. Then in 1632 he published a book coming out in full support for Copernicus and the Church took action. In the following year, Galileo was called to Rome and put on trial.
45. In which century was Galileo born?

46. What was Galileo good at?

47. Where was Galileo a professor?

48. At the time of Galileo what was the Church’s teaching about the motions of the sun and the earth?

49. Who was Copernicus?

50. What did Copernicus say?

51. What did Galileo think about what Copernicus said?

52. What did Galileo find out about the moon?

53. What were some of Galileo’s discoveries?

54. What is the Milky Way?

55. Why did one man say he wouldn’t look through the telescope?