

Reading Skills

IGCSE English ■ Topic 1

IGCSE English



Reading Skills

What we will cover

- 1 Skim then scan
- 2 Answering questions
- 3 Signal words
- 4 Notes & summaries
- 5 Reading between the lines



1

Finding information

Reading Skills

↳ Finding information

Skim then scan

- **skim** 略读: read fast for the **gist** 大意 – title & first lines
- **scan** 扫读: move your eyes fast to find **one** fact

A departure board is scan territory – hunt one flight, not every line.

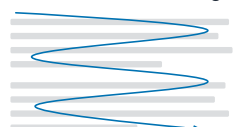


Scan for one fact among many lines

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Skim first, then scan

Skim - read fast for the gist



one fast sweep over every part:
"what is this text about?"

Scan - jump to one fact



eyes hop down the page and
stop only at what you need

Skim sweeps over everything for the gist; scan jumps straight to one fact

Reading Skills
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Match the question to the text

- Read the question first. Decide what kind of answer it wants: a name? a number? a reason?
- **Predict** 预测 the answer before you look. This helps your eyes find it faster.
- Find the part of the text that talks about the same idea. The answer is usually there.

Reading Skills
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Connecting ideas across a text

The ideas link to each other, and you must follow how.

Reading Skills
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Answering questions

read the question

→

predict 预测
the answer

→

scan the text

→

write a short answer

Write a word or a **phrase** 短语, not a sentence. Copy the exact word & answer **only** what is asked.

Reading Skills
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Signal words

addition 递进
also, in addition, as well as

contrast 对比
but, however, although

cause & effect 因果
because, so, as a result

Signal words 信号词 show how the writer's ideas connect. In **multiple matching** 多项匹配, look for the same **meaning**, not the same words (a **paraphrase** 改写).

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Signal words, in detail

addition
idea + idea
one more of the same kind
in addition
as well as

contrast
idea ↔ idea
the ideas pull in different directions
but
however
although

cause and effect
cause → effect
one thing makes the other happen
because
so
as a result

The three signal-word families and what they do to ideas

Reading Skills
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Signals that tell you what is coming

Cause and effect
Cause and effect 因果: because, so, therefore, as a result, consequently – the answer to a “why” question sits beside one of these.

Contrast
However, although, on the other hand, whereas – a change of direction, and often where the writer’s real view appears.

Repetition
Repetition 重复 of a word or an idea marks what the writer thinks matters – and in a summary question, what must be included.

Multiple-choice
In a multiple-choice 多项选择 question, find the words in the text that make one option true; the others usually fail on a single word.

Scan for the signal, then read the sentence around it. That is faster than reading everything, and more accurate.

2

Going deeper

Notes and summaries

note-making 做笔记

short notes under headings; leave out examples

summary 概括

the key points in fewer words, in **your own words**

Reading between the lines

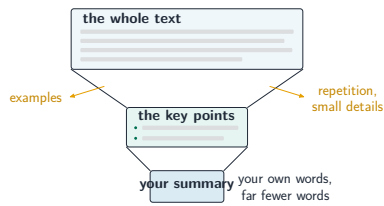
inference 推断

the writer **implies** 暗示 a meaning without saying it openly

attitude 态度

found in **word choice** 用词; guess new words from **context** 语境

Summary skills



A summary keeps only the key points, in your own words

Exam tips

- Read the question before the text. Underline the key word: a name? a number? a reason?
- Answers usually come in the same order as the text, so do not hunt backwards for question 1.
- Copy the exact word from the text when you can; a changed word can lose the mark.

Exam tips (continued)

- Check how many answers the question wants: "Give TWO reasons" needs two, not one.
- In multiple matching, the text usually does not repeat the question's words. Hunt for the same idea said differently.
- Never leave an empty line. A guess can win a mark; a blank never can.

3 Recap

Worked example – reading between the lines

“Lin *claimed* she had finished the work, but her desk told a different story.” What does this suggest?

- The writer chose *claimed*, not *said* ⇒ it hints the statement may not be true.
- “Her desk told a different story” is *indirect*: the writer never says she lied.
- Put together: the reader is meant to *doubt* Lin – her desk was still covered in work.
- ⇒ The writer *implies* Lin had not really finished.

For an *inference* question, quote the *exact word* that carries the hint and say what it suggests. Never just copy the sentence out – explain the *implication*.

Topic 1 – key takeaways

1 Skim & scan

skim for the gist, scan for one fact

2 Answers

predict, then write a short exact answer

3 Signal words

show addition, contrast, cause & effect

4 Inference

read the implied meaning & attitude

Check yourself

- 1 Which skill finds the gist quickly?
- 2 Which skill finds one exact fact?
- 3 What kind of word is “however”?
- 4 What is it called to work out an unstated meaning?



Answers 1. skimming 2. scanning 3. a contrast signal word 4. inference