

Topic:4

Reading Comprehension – Scanning for Information

Explanation:

When a passage is given for reading comprehension, one should first skim and scan through the passage to find what the passage is all about and to know the general drift. Then detailed reading should be given after through the questions. After thoroughly understanding the passage, the questions should be answered suitably. Effective communication skills are always essential for your academic and professional career. Reading comprehension improves your reading speed. When you read a text you comprehend the following

Author's purpose

Central idea

Cause & effect

Compare & contrast

Facts and Opinions

Sequencing

Draw inferences

Reading can be done at two levels; Intensive Reading and Extensive reading.

Intensive reading is done for complete understanding of the text by focusing on various aspects as mentioned in reading comprehension while extensive reading is done only for overall understanding. It is done at a superficial level. Intensive reading involves several skills, namely predicting the content, understanding the gist, scanning, role of paragraphs and sequences of sentences. Developing effective reading strategies helps us to locate specific information in a text without having to read it scanning is a reading skill used to locate key or specific information quickly example dates, numbers, examples and definitions. Scanning is the technique you use when you are looking up a name in the Telephone Directory. You move your eye quickly over the pages to find particular words or phrases that are relevant to the task you are doing.

Read the text and choose the best answer for each question.

Today, millions of people want to learn or improve their English but it is difficult to find the best method. Is it better to study in Britain or America or to study in your own country?

The advantages of going to Britain seem obvious. Firstly, you will be able to listen to the language all the time you are in the country. You will be surrounded completely by the language wherever you go. Another advantage is that you have to speak the language if you are with other people. In Italy, it is always possible, in the class, to speak Italian if you want to and the learning is slower.

On the other hand, there are also advantages to staying at home to study. You don't have to make big changes to your life. As well as this, it is also a lot cheaper than going to Britain but it is never possible to achieve the results of living in the UK. If you have a good teacher in Italy, I think you can learn in a more concentrated way than being in Britain without going to a school.

So, in conclusion, I think that if you have enough time and enough money, the best choice is to spend some time in the UK. This is simply not possible for most people, so being here in Italy is the only viable option. The most important thing to do in this situation is to maximise your opportunities: to speak only English in class and to try to use English whenever possible outside the class.

I. Choose the best answer:-

1. What is the article about?

- How many people learn English.
- The best way to learn English.**
- English schools in England and America.

2. What is one of the advantages of going to the UK to learn English?

- There are no Italians in Britain.
- You will have to speak English and not your language.**
- The language schools are better.

3. What is one of the advantages of staying in your country to learn English?

- The teachers aren't very good in Britain.
- You have to work too hard in Britain.
- Your life can continue more or less as it was before.**

4. People who don't have a lot of time and money should...

- Learn English in Britain.
- Try and speak English in class more often.**
- Go to Italy to learn English.

Read the following passage and answer the questions below:

The word noise is derived from the Latin word *nausea*, meaning ‘seasickness’. Noise is among the most pervasive pollutants today. Noise pollution can broadly be defined as unwanted or offensive sounds that unreasonably intrude into our daily activities. Noises from traffic jet engines, barking dogs, garbage trucks, construction equipment, factories, lawn mowers, leaf blowers, televisions, boom boxes and car radios, to name a few, are among the audible litter that is routinely broadcast into the air.

One measure of pollution is the danger it poses to health. Noise negatively affects human health and well-being. Problems related to noise include hearing loss, stress, high blood pressure, sleeplessness, fright, distraction, and loss of productivity. Noise pollution also contributes to a general reduction in the quality of life and eliminates opportunities for tranquility.

A number of factors contribute to problems of growing noise levels. One is the increasing population, particularly when it leads to increasing urbanization and urban consolidation, as activities associated with urban living generally led to increased noise levels. Another is the increasing volume of road, rail, and air traffic. Some people would add to this list, a diminishing sense of civility and growing disrespect for the rights of others.

We experience noise in a number of ways. On some occasions, we can be both the cause and the victim of noise, such as when we are operating noisy appliances or equipment. There are also instances when we experience noise generated by others, just as people experiencing passive smoking. In both instances, noise is equally damaging. However, secondhand noise is generally more troubling, because it is put into the environment by others, without our consent.

The air into which second hand noise is exited and on which it travels is –a commonsll. It belongs not to an individual person or a group, but to everyone. People, businesses, and organizations, therefore, do not have unlimited rights to broadcast noise as they please, as if the effects o noise were limited only to their private property. Those that disregard the obligation not to interfere with others’ use and enjoyment of the commons are acting like a bully in a school yard. Although they may do so unknowingly, they disregard the rights of others and claim for themselves rights that are not theirs.

Noise pollution differs from other forms of pollution in a number of ways. Noise is transient; once the pollution stops, the environment is free of it. This is not the case with air pollution. For example, we can measure the amount of chemicals and other pollutants introduced into the air. Scientists can estimate how much material can be introduced into the air before harm is done. The same is true of water pollution and soil pollution. Though we can measure individual sounds that may actually damage human hearing, it is difficult to monitor our cumulative exposure to noise or to determine just how

much noise is too much. The definition of noise pollution itself is highly subjective. To some people the roar of an engine may be satisfying or thrilling while to others it may be an annoyance. Loud music may be a pleasure or a torment, depending on the listener and the circumstances.

I. Choose the best answer:-

1. Noise pollution

- a. poses danger to health.
- b. contributes to the general reduction in the quality of life
- c. eliminate opportunities for peaceful life.
- d. does all the above damages.

2. Which is not a source of noise pollution?

- a. Exploding population
- b. Agricultural activities
- c. Urbanization
- d. Secondhand noise

3. Which of the following statements is false?

- a. One is not responsible for secondhand noise.
- b. Noise does not pollute the environment permanently.
- c. Desirability of a noise depends on the attitude of the listener
- d. Loudness is the only negative side of sound.

4. Noise is transient because

- a. its effect is short lived.
- b. its effect is permanent.
- c. It is very dangerous to the ear.
- d. it is thrilling

II Complete the following sentences meaningful:

- 1. Some health hazards of noise pollution are _____
- 2. Second hand noise is more troubling because _____
- 3. Population explosion is also responsible for _____
- 4. One sound may be a source of annoyance to one but _____

III Say whether the following statements are True / False according to the passage:

- 1. Air traffic contributes to noise pollution.
- 2. The root meaning of the word 'noise' itself is suggestive of its negative side.
- 3. Noise pollution leaves its impact on the environment permanently.
- 4. A Similar noise can be either pleasant or annoying to different persons.

IV Answer the following questions:

- 1. Define 'noise pollution'.

2. What does the writer call ‘audible litter’?
3. In what sense do we become both the cause and victim of noise?
4. What factors decide the negative nature of a sound?