

Reading outside the classroom

1 Read the sentences about reading habits and tick (✓) the ones that are true for you.

- 1 I read a lot outside the classroom.
- 2 I usually read blogs and articles online.
- 3 I often read stories written for my English level (Graded readers).
- 4 I sometimes read things which I find difficult to understand.
- 5 I usually read different types of texts in different ways.
- 6 I often write down new words from a reading text in a vocabulary notebook.
- 7 I need to understand every word in a text.
- 8 I look up new words in a dictionary as I read.



2 Read the definition of scan. Then scan the reading Study tip on the next page to find answers for a-f.

scan or **scan through** [INTRANSITIVE/TRANSITIVE] to read something very quickly, in order to get a general idea of its meaning or to find particular information

Merrill opened the letter, scanned it briefly, and threw it away.

Tony scanned through the television programmes in the local newspaper.

Find:

- a a type of text that you should scan
- b three things that you should write down when you read actively
- c a way of reading which will help you learn topic vocabulary
- d a way of writing down vocabulary to help you remember it
- e a good way of revising words and enjoying reading
- f a reason why you shouldn't look up every new word in a dictionary



STUDY TIP

Reading outside class is a great way of revising words you have already seen in class and of learning new words. It's a good idea to develop reading strategies. Try the following ideas:

- 1 Read graded readers: Take a level test at <http://www.macmillanreaders.com/tests/level-test>. This will help you to choose a book that is the right level for you.
- 2 Read online blogs and articles: These can be difficult to understand because they are not written for your level. Try to scan the blog or article for the information you need. You don't usually need to understand every word to get a general understanding of a text.
- 3 Use a dictionary: If you are finding something difficult to understand, it's fine to use a dictionary. Don't look up every word though – it takes too long.
- 4 Read actively: Before you read a text, look at the title and write down four questions that you want to find out. After you read, write down three things you discovered and two things you found interesting.
- 5 Read around the same topic: If you read different news articles about the same topic, it will help you to learn key topic vocabulary.
- 6 Read more quickly: Effective readers try to understand 'chunks' of words rather than one word at a time.
- 7 Organise new vocabulary: Group new vocabulary by topic so that it's easier to learn.

- 4 Practise finding topic vocabulary in a text. Underline words or phrases in the text in 3 which describe activities. The first two have been done for you. Then write them in the correct column in the table.

Activities that make you feel happy	Activities that make you feel unhappy

- 5 Find some online articles about happiness. Write down useful words and phrases that describe activities.

- 3 Practise reading actively. Read Study tip 4 and follow the instructions with the text below.

Learn the art of Danish Hygge

During the winter months in Denmark, there are only four hours of light per day. The average annual temperature is 0 degrees. So how do Danish people manage to stay happy? The answer isn't by spending money, but by spending time with loved ones, chatting, or relaxing in front of a burning log fire. This helps them to feel *hygge*.

There isn't an English translation for the word *hygge*. The closest words are 'cosiness' and 'well-being'. But the meaning of the word is also similar to the idea of being kind to yourself. Rather than eating a whole box of chocolates and feeling bad about it, a Danish person finds *hygge* by eating a few chocolates and enjoying each one. A *hygge* experience is one that is good for a person's soul. It might be something as simple as watching a beautiful sunset with your best friend or even lighting candles, closing the curtains and reading your favourite book without worrying about all the school work you have to do.

The best thing about *hygge*? It's simple and anyone can learn to do it. Perhaps this is the reason why a college in the UK is teaching its students the art of *hygge* as part of its Danish language course. It seems that everyone wants a bit of *hygge*!

