



## Study Skills: Scanning and Skimming a text

Sometimes you need to be able to read a text very quickly, perhaps to find a specific piece of information.

This is called **Scanning**. When you want to find a specific piece of information quickly. Glance quickly down the text for key words. Run a finger down the middle of the page as you read to focus your eyes and keep them moving.

**On the next slide there are many words – your task is to SCAN these words and find and list 5 things that a person could wear. Sounds easy....**

**Scanning for answers in a text is a great skill to develop!**

October	fish	Sarah	apple	kettle	oven	blazer	May
Tie	December	cat	dog	fork	Jack	plate	bowl
Banana	shirt	orange	knife	sink	mug	March	rabbit
January	Mike	Clare	spoon	shoes	trousers	July	
Jenny	guinea pig	pots	jumper	David	February	mouse	
Hamster	April	plum	peach	June	Danielle	kitten	
Grapes	puppy	August	Robert	microwave	Helen	rat	
Mango	parrot	fridge	Andrew	socks	glasses	lizard	
Freezer	September	Jamie	Joanna	belt	cupboards	spider	

## Now you are going to try the same thing with a text

A man was sitting with his feet up on a desk. He turned his head when Stanley and the guard entered, but otherwise didn't move. Even though he was inside, he wore sunglasses and a cowboy hat. He also held a can of cream soda, and the sight of it made Stanley even more aware of his own thirst.

He waited while the bus guard gave the man some papers to sign.

"That's a lot of sunflower seeds," the bus guard said.

Stanley noticed a burlap sack filled with sunflower seeds on the floor next to the desk.

"I quit smoking last month," said the man in the cowboy hat. He had a tattoo of a rattlesnake on his arm, and as he signed his name, the snake's rattle seemed to wiggle. "I used to smoke a pack a day. Now I eat a sack of these every week."

*'Holes' - Louis Sachar, page 12*

What stands out about what the man is wearing?

- Pink fluffy socks
- A dressing gown
- Sunglasses and a cowboy hat

What evidence shows us that Stanley has not had a drink for a long time?

- He notices a sack full of "sunflower seeds"
- The can of cream soda makes him "even more aware of his own thirst"
- The man in the cowboy hat "quit smoking last month"

## Did you use the clues in the question to scan for the answer?

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**Skimming** is another type of fast reading. You might use skimming to look through a text quickly to get the an overview of what the text is about. So, if you want to know what's going on in the news, you might skim through a newspaper or a news website. You wouldn't have much detail but you would find out the main points.



# **Study Skills: Scanning and Skimming a Text**

**Sometimes you will have to read a text in detail, but these skills will help you to locate important points and get an overview of a text.**

## **REMEMBER**

- **Use clues in the questions to help you scan for answers**
- **Skim a text through to get an overview of the main points.**