READ THE TEXT AND COMPLETE THE ACTIVITIES:

Mark reaches for the sky!

Mark Chan is a hardworking student with a dream. In his free time he loves climbing and he was the first Singaporean to climb in the Youth Olympic Games. His ambition is to climb for Singapore in the next Olympics.

Mark started climbing when he was fourteen years old. His school coach thought he was so good that he introduced him to the Singapore national team. He made the team and that's when he started to push himself.

Mark studies aerospace engineering at college. He says that in Singapore the cost of living is very high, so everyone has to study hard to get a good job. His parents also push him to succeed. It's hard to find time for both school and training. He worries that he won't make the Olympics because he doesn't have enough time to train, but he wants to try.

To do it, Mark trains as much as possible. He races in every climbing competition that he can, and goes to the gym every day after class. He says it's very tiring but that he's "working hard for what I really want." Mark knows that to achieve his goal he has to give 100%. Practice makes perfect, so he often does the same climbing move many times before he gets it right. And he never gives up! Next year, he's moving to the U.K. to train with his coach.

Mark's coach, Ian Dunn, has 40 years of experience and coaches the Great Britain climbing team. He wants to push his climbers and help them succeed. He says that Mark needs to concentrate and "be more confident." He's excited that Mark is going to work with him in the U.K. He thinks Mark's future is "really bright."

Mark plans to train hard. We hope he makes it to the Olympics!

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1.- Match these verbs a–f with their meanings 1–6.

| a achieve | b coach | c concentrate | d give up | e push | f train |

1.- succeed at a goal _____

2.- stop trying to do something _____

3.- practice a sport _____

4.- think carefully and pay attention _____

5.- force someone to do something _____

6.- teach athletes _____

2.- Look at the Reading Skill box. How is scanning different from skimming? How can scanning help you to read? Discuss with a partner.

READING SKILL: Scanning a text can help you to find information that you need quickly.

• To find out when: scan for numbers

• To find out where: scan for capital letters

• To find out who: scan for capital letters, names, and job titles

• To find out what: scan for information related to what you want to know

3.- Scan the online article about Mark Chan. Answer questions 1–6.

1.- Where is Mark from?

2.- What two things take up most of Mark's time?

3.- What is Mark's main ambition?

4.- When did Mark first try climbing?

5.- Who trains Mark now?

6.- Who else does Mark's coach work with?

4.- Read the article again. Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

1.- Mark is confident that he will go to the Olympics.   T   F

2.- Mark studies, then trains every day.   T   F

3.- Mark plans to live in the U.K.   T   F

Look at the Critical Thinking Skill box.

CRITICAL THINKING SKILL

Categorizing

You can categorize things by thinking about how they are the same or different, for example, deciding if information is true or false, or positive or negative. Putting information into different categories can help you think about and understand it.

Check (✓) the actions 1–8 that are helpful for achieving ambitions.

1.-   **give up**

2.-   **listen to friends, teachers, or coaches**

3.-   **give 100%**

4.-   **practice as much as possible**

5.-   **have an ambition**

6.-   **do nothing**

7.-   **worry about failing**

8.-   **take part in races and events**