

Develop your reading

- Goal: understand a short article
- Focus: reading for specific information

- 1** Read the title and introduction to the news article.
How has Morris recorded his life?

A LIFE IN PHOTOS

Over the past few years, Morris Villarroel from Madrid has recorded everything in his life using a special camera and making lots of notes.

It started in 2010, when he decided to record what happened to him by writing things down in a notebook. He enjoyed it so much that, in 2014, he started taking photos every 30 seconds. He uses a small camera that he carries on his body and it takes about 1,200 photos every day. Most of them aren't very interesting – for example, a picture of his breakfast or his hands when he's driving, but he doesn't delete any of them.

As well as the photos, he has 245 notebooks with his thoughts and ideas inside. He reads his notes regularly to check them.

This sounds strange to a lot of people. Even Morris says that he hasn't seen all of his photos, but he feels it's important to keep a record of his life so that he can look at it when he's older and see what it was like – just like a personal diary. He also wants to create a collection of thoughts and activities to give to his son, who was born at 4.36 p.m. on 4th November, 2014. While most fathers have a few photos of mother and child, Morris recorded the whole day and then every day of his life so far. He hopes that when his son is older he can look back and see what his mother looked like on the day he was born, as well as every day after that.

- 2** Read the Focus box. What are some examples of specific information?

Reading for specific information

When reading, you often only need to understand specific pieces of information.

Before reading, think about the type of information you need. If you want to know a date, look for a number. If you're looking for a name, then capital letters will help you find it.

Elvis Presley was born in Tupelo, Mississippi, on 8th January 1935.

It also helps to think about where in the text the information will be – at the beginning, in the middle or at the end.

- 3 a** Read the text and answer the questions.

- 1 How many photos does Morris take every day?
- 2 When did he start recording things?
- 3 What time was his son born?
- 4 What's Morris's surname?
- 5 How often does he take photos?

- b** What do you think of Morris's project? Would you like to do something like this?