Reading Exam

Name _____

Date _____

Exam skills vocabulary.

Match the words to the definitions.

a) key	☐	(here) read something quickly and not in detail
b) familiarise	☐	(here) read something quickly, in order to get a general idea of its meaning or to find particular information
c) skim	☐	(here) a list of answers to the questions in a test or in a book
d) scan	☐	get to know well

Transcript

Rob	Reading English is often OK if you've got plenty of time to do it, but in a reading exam, it can seem as if time isn't on your side! Here's examiner Mark Shea.
Mark Shea, Examiner	The way most reading exams work is that you have a lot of reading to do and very little time to do it. Time is more important perhaps in reading than in any other paper.
Rob	So there's no time to waste in a reading exam but hopefully our top tips will not make your next exam feel like a sprint! The first thing to do is to familiarise yourself with the structure of the exam. Remember to do plenty of reading practice tests – preferably in timed conditions. And get feedback either from your teacher or by checking your answers with answer keys where possible. When you do the real exam, begin by reading the instructions carefully so you know exactly what you're required to do. One suggestion is to start with the reading section that you found easiest in the practice test - then you'll have time to focus on the sections you find most difficult. Other people suggest the opposite. You choose which way works for you. Just don't spend too much time on any one section – the clock is ticking! This is how one student approaches a reading exam.
Student	When the paper come, I read first the questions. I try to read the whole thing and try to construct how I answer those questions.
Rob	So it's a good idea to read the questions before you read the texts, so you know what to look for. You could skim to find the main idea of a section of text or scan to find specific details such as key words, details, phrases or synonyms from the questions. Attempt to answer all the questions as long as there is no penalty for an incorrect answer. And make sure you leave some time at the end to check your answers. Good luck!

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Here's a summary of our tips to help you with your reading exams:

1: Try out practice exams

2: Get feedback and act on it

3: Read the instructions carefully

4: Read the questions before the text

5: Answer all the questions

6: Leave time to check your work

To do

So what did you discover? Find out by taking this test.

1. What will NOT help you prepare for your reading exam?

   a Practise speaking to a friend
   b Try some practice reading tests
   c Read lots of different types of texts

2. In a reading exam, what should you do first?

   a Read the text
   b Read the instructions
   c Skim read the whole exam paper

3. How can you quickly find the answer to a question in the text?

   a Read the text twice
   b Just read the first paragraph
   c Scan the text

4. In a reading exam, how many questions should you answer?

   a Half of them
   b All of them
   c The ones you can answer

Watch the video clip and then check your answers.

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