Review Unit 1

Fluency Strategy: PRO

PRO stands for **P**review, **R**ead, **O**rganize. This reading strategy will help you build your reading fluency by helping you to organize and understand what you read.

Preview

The first stage of PRO is to **preview** the reading material by looking for features of the text that can help you. Read the title of the passage and any other **headings**. If any words in the passage are written in *italics*, read them. Read the **first paragraph**, the **first sentences in the middle paragraphs**, and the **final paragraph**. After doing this, stop for a minute and think about what the reading is about. Think about what you already know about the topic, and any questions you have that you hope the passage can answer.

Preview the reading passage on the next page, *Are Human Beings Getting Smarter*? What do you think the answer to the title question will be? Then skim the rest of the passage and write a list of questions you hope to answer as you read the passage in detail.

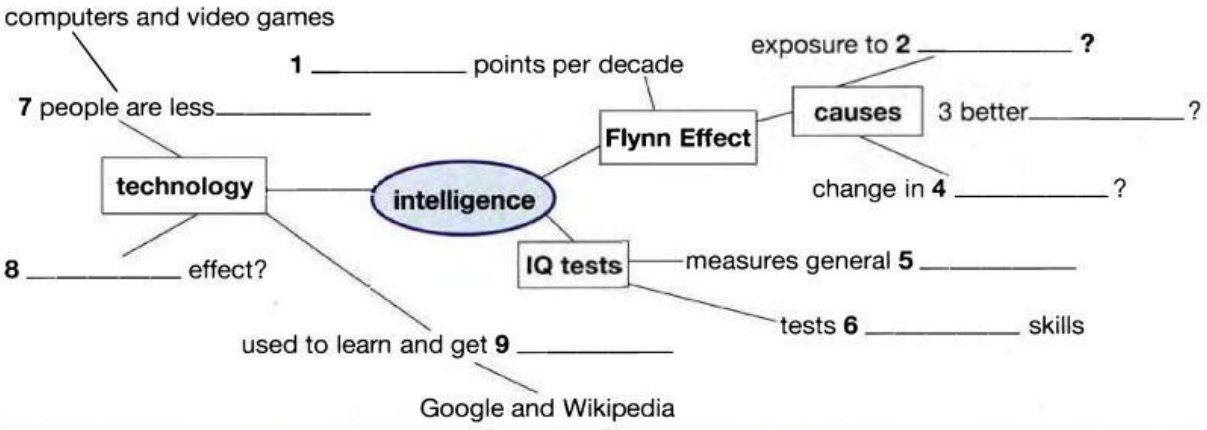
Read

Now, **read** *Are Human Beings Getting Smarter*? When you read, think about the questions you listed in the Preview stage. Look for answers to your questions.

Organize

The final stage of PRO is to **organize** the information in some way that will help you remember what you have read. One way is by creating a word web. The word web can help you easily see how the information in the passage is organized.

A **Here is an incomplete word web based on *Are Human Beings Getting Smarter*? Complete the rest of the word web using the information in the passage.**



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Are Human Beings Getting Smarter?

Do you think you're smarter than your parents and grandparents? According to James Flynn, a professor at a New Zealand university, you might be. Over the course of the last century, IQ test scores of people in some countries have gotten increasingly better—on average, three points better for every decade that has passed. This trend of improving scores is known as "the Flynn effect," and scientists want to know what is behind it.

IQ tests and other similar tests are designed to measure general intelligence rather than knowledge. Flynn knew that intelligence is partly inherited from our parents and partly the result of our environment and experiences, but the improvement in test scores was happening too quickly to be explained by heredity.[1] So what happened in the 20th century that led to higher test scores?

Scientists have proposed several explanations for the Flynn effect. Some suggest that the improved test scores simply reflect an increased exposure to tests in general. Because we take so many tests, we learn test-taking techniques that help us perform better. Others have pointed to better nutrition, which results in babies being born larger, healthier, and with more brain development than in the past. Another possible explanation is a change in educational styles—children are encouraged to discover things for themselves rather than just memorizing information. This could prepare people to do the kind of problem-solving that intelligence tests require.

Flynn himself suggested that learning new technologies may have improved people's problem-solving skills. This may be true for the first decade of his tests, when IQ scores in many countries increased. However, in recent years, IQ test scores in some countries have begun to decline. Data from Norway, the Netherlands, Australia, and Great Britain have shown that as these countries become more and more modern, IQ scores have begun to drop.

While scientists aren't sure what's causing this decline, they think technology is dramatically changing the way that we learn and get information. For example, people are now able to access all kinds of information very easily using online resources like Google or Wikipedia. The danger is when they start to rely too much on these sources of information, and not do any thinking for themselves. Lifestyle changes that come with modern technology may also have a negative effect on intelligence, such as video games and television making people less social. So while the world may have gotten smarter over the 20th century, improving technology and changing lifestyles may soon reverse that trend.

[1] **Heredity** is the process by which features and characteristics are passed on to you from your parents through your genes.

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B **Choose the best answer for the following questions. Use the word web from A to help you.**

1 What best describes the Flynn effect?
- **a** a way to measure intelligence
- **b** an increase in IQ test scores
- **c** a way of teaching university students
- **d** an explanation for why people are less smart

2 The Flynn effect is probably the result of _____.
- **a** heredity
- **b** our environment and experiences
- **c** taking fewer tests
- **d** memorizing information

3 IQ tests evaluate our _____.
- **a** knowledge
- **b** environment
- **c** intelligence
- **d** memories

4 Who does *others* in line 14 refer to?
- **a** babies
- **b** scientists
- **c** people in general
- **d** people who take tests

5 Which sentence gives the main idea of the passage?
- **a** This trend of improving scores is known as "the Flynn effect," and scientists want to know what is behind it.
- **b** Because we take so many tests, we learn test-taking techniques that help us perform better.
- **c** However, in recent years, IQ test scores in some countries have begun to decline.
- **d** Lifestyle changes that come with modern technology may also have a negative effect on intelligence.

6 The writer uses video games as an example of how _____.
- **a** we are becoming less social
- **b** technology can increases problem-solving skills
- **c** people don't think for themselves
- **d** countries are becoming more technologically advanced

7 Which statement would the writer probably agree with?
- **a** People today are more intelligent in every way.
- **b** People today have fewer problems to solve.
- **c** People today don't take enough tests.
- **d** People today use computers too much.

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SELF CHECK

Answer the following questions.

1 Have you ever used the PRO method before?

☐ *Yes* ☐ *No* ☐ *I'm not sure.*

2 Will you practice PRO in your reading outside of English class?

☐ *Yes* ☐ *No* ☐ *I'm not sure.*

3 Do you think PRO is helpful? Why, or why not?

_____

_____

4 Which of the six reading passages in units 1–3 did you enjoy most? Why?

_____

_____

5 Which of the six reading passages in units 1–3 was easiest? Which was most difficult? Why?

_____

_____

6 What have you read in English outside of class recently?

_____

_____

7 What distractions do you face when you read? What can you do to minimize those distractions?

_____

_____

8 How will you try to improve your reading fluency from now on?

_____

_____

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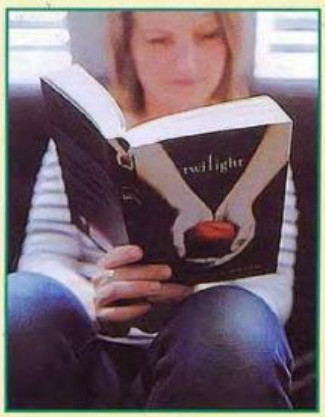
Reading Review 1: The Film and the Novel: Twilight

Fluency Practice

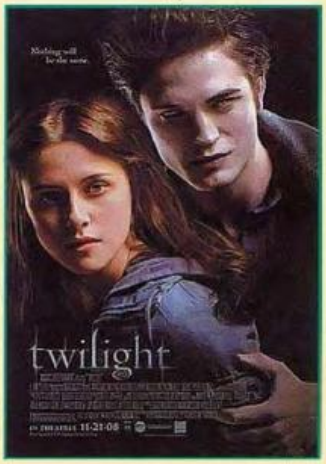
Time yourself as you read through the passage. Try to read as fluently as you can. Record your time in the Reading Rate Chart on page 176. Then answer the questions on page 46.

The Film and the Novel: Twilight



1 When a popular book gets made into a movie, there will always be a debate about whether the novel or film is better. The filmmakers always have to consider certain things: do they want to follow the book closely to please dedicated readers, or do they want to change parts of the book if they don't translate well on-screen? No matter what they do, there will always be people who feel the movie will never be as good as the book, people who will love the movie without ever reading the book, and people who enjoy both.

2 The vampire series *Twilight*, by Stephenie Meyer, became so popular that movie companies wanted to produce it for the big screen. Most *Twilight* fans were excited about seeing characters such as Edward and Bella 'come to life,' but there were other fans who did not trust the movie script. They assumed the scriptwriters would change parts of the story to make it seem more interesting as a movie.



3 By the time the first *Twilight* movie was released, millions of people had read the series. Many of these people went on to watch the film, which made $35.7 million just on its opening day. While many fans and critics liked it and said the movie more or less followed the book's storyline, some fans were not impressed. One change that angered them was that certain sound effects were added to the movie, such as a 'whooshing' sound when the vampires jumped. This was not mentioned in the book, and many fans felt that it was too distracting.

4 Those who liked the movie said they enjoyed the light mood and excitement. This was very different from the book. The writing in *Twilight* is dark and gloomy, like many vampire novels. The movie, however, added more energy to the story and more personality to the characters. For example, many characters in the book are portrayed as being quiet, and they spend most of their time at school. But in the movie, the characters are cooler and funnier—one scene even shows them going surfing together. The director of the first movie, Catherine Hardwicke, thought it was important for the characters to be believable. She wanted **them** to have a wide variety of emotions, since the series is for, and about, teenagers.

5 In the end, the films were considered a success, even if there were both happy and unhappy fans. It's a great accomplishment to make films that are watched by millions of people, and you can't expect to be able to please everyone all of the time.

431 words **Time taken** _____

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Reading Comprehension

1 What is the main idea of the first paragraph?
- **a** It takes a long time to make books into movies.
- **b** Filmmakers prefer to make movies out of popular books.
- **c** People will always compare movies to the books.
- **d** Many people will see a movie without reading the book.

2 Why does the passage say fans were excited to see the movie?
- **a** to see how the story would change
- **b** to see which actors would play their favorite characters
- **c** to see real people acting out the story
- **d** to see if the movie would be better than the book

3 The passage discusses vampires jumping _____.
- **a** as an example of a sound effect
- **b** as an example of a change that displeased fans
- **c** because it was a special effect and not real
- **d** to say how scary the movie was

4 The book *Twilight* is described as very _____.
- **a** exciting
- **b** serious
- **c** fun
- **d** funny

5 According to the passage, what was NOT changed for the movie?
- **a** storyline
- **b** mood
- **c** characters
- **d** sound effects

6 In line 26, *them* refers to the _____.
- **a** directors
- **b** actors
- **c** characters
- **d** fans

7 What best describes this passage?
- **a** a comparison of a book and a movie
- **b** a review of a movie
- **c** an introduction to a book
- **d** a discussion of how books are made into movies

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Reading Review 2: Organic Farming: The New Vacation

Fluency Practice

Time yourself as you read through the passage. Try to read as fluently as you can. Record your time in the Reading Rate Chart on page 176. Then answer the questions on page 48.

Organic Farming: The New Vacation



1 In 1971, Sue Coppard worked as a secretary in London. While she enjoyed city life, Sue also missed the countryside where she spent most of her time as a child. So she offered to help out on a farm, or more specifically, an organic farming program organized by a nearby college. She got a few people to volunteer as well, and they spent the weekend doing 'housework,' which involved clearing bushes and cleaning drains. Afterwards, the farm managers said they could come back anytime to help out.

2 Sue put a small ad in a magazine, offering people the chance to volunteer at the organic farm. The volunteer program grew quickly, and soon other organic farmers joined in, asking for people to help out. With so many people and farms involved, someone needed to **organize** the different groups. A few of the original volunteers started WWOOF (World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms) to help volunteers and farmers find one another. Today, at least 50 different countries have WWOOF organizations, and many other countries have individual farms that participate in the movement.

3 While WWOOF is still a weekend activity for some, it now welcomes travelers and people who wish to live and work on farms for longer periods of time. WWOOF volunteers can stay on a farm for weeks or even months at a time in exchange for hands-on farming and gardening experience. The work can be exhausting, but volunteers think it's worth it. By working on farms, the volunteers **interact** with farmers and develop a love for the outdoors and organic farming. Many travelers now use WWOOFing as a way to visit new countries and experience new cultures.

4 As travelers will discover, every WWOOF opportunity is a bit different. In Serbia, you can find Misa and Olja, a couple whose farm is known for its hard cheeses and for its bread made from homegrown grains. Finca Amiruca, a farm in Ecuador, teaches volunteers how to grow peanuts, plantains, and yucca. When volunteering in Japan, you may get to learn about growing rice.

5 WWOOF is only one of the many unique volunteer opportunities available. Volunteering is something that anyone can do, and a wide variety of organizations accept or even welcome volunteers. So the next time you get the itch to be active on the weekend or on vacation, why not look for a good cause to spend your energy on?

400 words **Time taken** _____

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Reading Comprehension

1 Why did Sue first work on a farm?
- **a** She was a student at the university.
- **b** She needed money.
- **c** She missed the countryside.
- **d** She did not enjoy her job.

2 More people joined the program when Sue _____.
- **a** put an advertisement in a magazine
- **b** hung posters at a school
- **c** asked friends and neighbors to come
- **d** offered to pay people to work

3 In line 9, the word *organize* means _____.
- **a** pay
- **b** arrange
- **c** cancel
- **d** work

4 When living on a WWOOF farm, volunteers _____.
- **a** must pay the farm's owner
- **b** can stay for a long or short time
- **c** are given a special bedroom
- **d** sleep outdoors

5 Which is NOT a change that WWOOF has undergone since it first started?
- **a** It has spread to many different countries.
- **b** It has many more people volunteering for it.
- **c** It allows people to stay for longer periods of time.
- **d** It is less tiring than it used to be.

6 What is special about the farm in Serbia?
- **a** It is the only farm in the country where rice is grown.
- **b** Peanuts, plantains, and yucca are grown on the farm.
- **c** It is an animal farm, with lots of pigs and cattle.
- **d** The people at the farm make cheese and bread.

7 What is the purpose of the last paragraph?
- **a** to introduce a new volunteer organization
- **b** to explain why working on a farm is good
- **c** to give one more detail about WWOOF
- **d** to encourage readers to volunteer

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