



READING COMPREHENSION



Reading techniques

- Reading techniques
- In order to read effectively, you need to use different reading techniques for different purposes and texts.
- You should always read for a clearly defined purpose


Skimming

- Skimming will help you grasp the general idea or gist of a text.
- You might quickly read the table of contents, the headings or the abstract.
- You could also read the first and last paragraphs and the first and last sentence of each paragraph in a relevant section.



Scanning

- Scanning allows you to locate precise information.
- You might identify a key terms or expressions which will alert you to where your subject is being addressed.
- You could then run your eyes over a text looking for these.



Detailed reading/ Intensive reading

- Detailed reading allows you to critically consider aspects of the text.
- This may involve close reading of the entire text, or of important sections of the text.
- This may require the reader to go for re readings of the text



Stages in reading

- **Before reading** get an overview of the text:
- skim the table of contents, headings and subheadings
- read the introduction and conclusion
- scan the relevant sections to locate where your topic is discussed

Stages in reading

- **During reading** closely follow the development of the ideas in the text:
- read actively - write in the margins, highlight phrases, take note of important points
- don't forget to examine diagrams and figures as they are information-dense
- read critically - ask yourself questions; for example, Is the argument logical? Is it biased? Is there enough evidence to support the author's conclusions?



Stages in reading

- **After reading** think over what you have read.
- Make a brief summary of the main ideas and concepts in the text.

- **Reading Activity:** Milpa Alta is a region to the south of Mexico City. It has a famous volcano – *Teuhtli* – and twelve villages and towns. Milpa Alta is also famous for a traditional meal every Christmas, called *La Rejunta*. The meal is part of the Christmas celebrations and it feeds huge numbers of people. The cooks make about sixty thousand tamales. Tamales are made from corn and have different fillings. They also make about fifteen thousand litres of hot chocolate. They make all of this food and drink in less than one week. The meal is one of the activities for people who go on a walk to the cave of *El Señor de Chalma*. It's an important place for people from the region at Christmas. The cave is about eighty kilometres away and the walk begins on the 3rd of January. About 20,000 people go on the walk each year. That's 20,000 hungry people!
- Every year, the organisers of the meal change. This year, Virginia Meza Torres and her husband Fermín Lara Jiménez are the organisers, or *majordomos*. They waited for 14 years to do this. Lots of people want to organise the meal because it's a very important tradition. They put their names on a list. At the moment, the list has names for every year until 2046.

- The preparation for the meal takes a whole year. At the start of the year, men collect wood from the forest. They store it near the home of the *majordomos* so that it will be dry and ready to use. The wood burns in the fires that they use to cook the food. The farmers in the area grow the ingredients for the meal, such as corn, meat and vegetables. Everything is natural; there's no ready-made food. Lots of volunteers help to cook and serve the meal.
- Tradition is very important to the people of Milpa Alta, and one of the most important activities is eating together. One woman, Josefina García Jiménez, says that sitting together at the table shows love to your family. Everybody stays at the table after the meal finishes and they talk, tell stories and laugh together. At Christmas, *La Rejunta* is like a huge family meal.

Choose the right option

- **1. What is the article about?**
- a special tradition
- a town in Mexico
- farmers in Milpa Alta
- **2. What is La Rejunta?**
- a meal
- a person
- a place
- Read the article again and choose the correct option.
- **3. Where is Milpa Alta?**
- in Mexico
- in Mexico City
- near Mexico

- **4. Which sentence is true?**

- People eat for a week at La Rejunta.
- Twenty thousand people go to El Señor de Chalma.
- People take their own food to La Rejunta.

- **5. At La Rejunta ...**

- there's food but no drink.
- there's food and drink.
- there's drink but no food.

- **6. Which sentence is true?**

- Virginia and Fermin are majordomos for the first time.
- Virginia and Fermin got married 14 years ago.
- Virginia and Fermin organise La Rejunta every year.