*Abdelhafidh Boussouf University Center-Mila*

*Institute of Letters and Languages*

*Department of Foreign Languages*

**Module:** Reading Comprehension

**Level:** First Year 2024/2025

**Domain:** English

**Lesson:** Skimming and Scanning

**Prepared, compiled and organized by the Lecturer:** Dr. Rania Khelifa chelihi

**1. What is Skimming?**

**Definition:** Skimming is the process of reading a text *quickly* to get the *general idea* or *overview* of its content. You focus on the main points rather than details. It’s like snorkeling in the ocean, where you look at the big picture and get a sense of what’s there without diving deep into each individual fish.

**How to Skim:**

* **Read quickly**: Don’t try to understand every word; just get the general idea.
* **Focus on key parts**: Look at titles, subheadings, first and last sentences of paragraphs, and any bold or italicized text.
* **Main Idea**: Try to think of one sentence that summarizes each paragraph or section. What is the *main point* or *theme* of the passage?

**When to Skim:**

* When you need to quickly understand the general topic of a text (like when reading the introduction or conclusion).
* When you have limited time, and need to get a sense of the text’s overall message.

**Example:** Imagine you’re reading a research article about climate change. If you skim, you might focus on:

* The title: "The Impact of Climate Change on Marine Ecosystems"
* Subheadings: “Rising Temperatures,” “Oceans and Biodiversity”
* The introduction and conclusion paragraphs.

From this, you’ll know the article is about how climate change affects marine life, but you won’t know all the details yet.

**2. What is Scanning?**

**Definition:** Scanning is the process of reading a text to locate *specific information*. It's like snorkeling again, but this time you’re looking for *one specific fish*—the fish with the red tail. In scanning, your focus is sharp and targeted.

**How to Scan:**

* **Search for keywords**: Identify the specific information you need (like a date, name, number, or fact).
* **Move your eyes quickly**: Instead of reading every word, move your eyes over the text, jumping from one key term to another.
* **Skip irrelevant details**: Ignore everything that doesn’t relate to the specific information you’re searching for.

**When to Scan:**

* When you’re looking for a *specific detail* in a text, like a date, name, or statistic (for example, in a textbook or research paper).
* When you need to find an answer to a specific question or locate a piece of information (e.g., finding a fact to support an argument in your paper).

**Example:** If you’re scanning an article about marine biology to find the year a particular study was published, you wouldn’t read the entire article. Instead, you would:

* Look for the year "1999" or a related date.
* Quickly move over the text until you find that specific year.

**References:**

Fauzi, Iwan, and F. Raya. "The effectiveness of skimming and scanning strategies in improving comprehension and reading speed rates for the students of English study program." *Register Journal* 11.1 (2018): 101-120.

Pido, Nur Wahida, and Aisyah Mubarokah. "The Effectiveness of Using Skimming and Scanning Techniques in Improving Reading Comprehension: A Systematic Literature Review." *VISA: Journal of Vision and Ideas* 4.2 (2024): 995-1001.