NAPLAN

Skim-Scan-Score

Rapid Reading Strategies

Year 3-7

SKIM SCAN SCORE

Table of Contents

Introduction

💡 Welcome to Rapid Reading Success!

This comprehensive guide will teach you the essential skills of skimming, scanning, and strategic reading to excel in NAPLAN tests. Whether you're in Year 3 or Year 7, these techniques will help you read faster, understand better, and score higher.

SKIM

Quickly identify main ideas and overall structure of texts

SCAN

Locate specific information and details efficiently

SCORE

Apply strategies to achieve maximum marks in minimum time

How to Use This Book

- Start with your year level, but feel free to explore other sections
- Practice with the timed exercises to build speed and confidence
- Use the strategy cards as quick reference during practice
- Complete the self-assessment checklists to track your progress

Years 3-4

Part 1: Foundation Skills

Building the basics of rapid reading

What is Skimming and Scanning?

Skimming

Skimming is like flying over a text to get the big picture. You read quickly to understand the main ideas without worrying about every detail.

Think of it like:
Looking at a picture book and noticing the main characters and what's

Scanning

Scanning is like being a detective looking for specific clues. You search through text to find particular information quickly.

Think of it like:
Looking through your toy box to find your favourite action figure - you ignore

happening in each picture.

everything else until you spot it!

Basic Techniques for Quick Reading

Basic Skimming Steps

1. Read the title and any headings
2. Look at pictures, charts, or bold words
3. Read the first sentence of each paragraph
4. Read the last paragraph

Basic Scanning Steps

1. Know exactly what you're looking for
2. Move your eyes quickly across the text
3. Stop when you find your target word or number
4. Read around that area carefully

Practice Exercise 1: The Amazing Octopus

Time Challenge: Read and answer questions in 3 minutes

The Amazing Octopus

Octopuses are some of the most incredible creatures in the ocean. These amazing animals have eight arms covered in powerful suction cups. Did you know that octopuses have three hearts? Two hearts pump blood to their gills, while the third heart pumps blood to the rest of their body.

One of the coolest things about octopuses is their ability to change colour. They can match the colour and texture of rocks, coral, or sand in just seconds. This helps them hide from predators like sharks and eels. When they're scared or excited, they might turn bright red or flash different colours.

Octopuses are also incredibly smart. They can solve puzzles, open jars, and even use tools. Scientists have watched octopuses pick up coconut shells and use them as portable shelters. Some octopuses can also squeeze through tiny spaces - if their beak can fit through a gap, their whole body can follow!

Baby octopuses are called larvae, and they start life floating near the surface of the ocean. Most octopuses live for only one to two years, but they pack a lot of amazing behaviour into their short lives.

Questions:

Skimming Questions (Find the main ideas):

1. What is this text mainly about?
2. Name two amazing abilities of octopuses mentioned in the text.
3. What are baby octopuses called?

Scanning Questions (Find specific details):

4. How many hearts does an octopus have?
5. How long do most octopuses live?
6. What do octopuses use coconut shells for?

Practice Exercise 2: School Fun Day

Time Challenge: Read and answer questions in 4 minutes

Westfield Primary School Fun Day

Saturday 15th October, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Morning Activities (10:00 AM - 12:00 PM)

- Face painting - $3 per face
- Bouncy castle - Free
- Treasure hunt - $2 entry
- Art and craft stall - $5 per item

Afternoon Activities (1:00 PM - 3:00 PM)

- Three-legged race - 1:15 PM
- Egg and spoon race - 1:45 PM
- Tug of war - 2:15 PM
- Prize giving - 2:45 PM

Food Stalls

- Sausage sizzle - $4
- Cake stall - $2-$6
- Drinks - $2

Special Notes

- Bring your own water bottle
- All children must be supervised
- Car parking available in Year 2 playground

- Ice cream van - $3-$5
- Proceeds support new library books

Questions:

Skimming Questions:

1. What is the main purpose of this text?
2. What day of the week is the Fun Day?
3. What will the money raised be used for?

Scanning Questions:

4. How much does face painting cost?
5. What time is the tug of war?
6. Which activity is free?
7. Where can parents park their cars?

Years 3-4 Self-Assessment Checklist

Tick off each skill as you master it:

Skimming Skills

- [ ] I can read titles and headings first
- [ ] I can spot the main idea quickly
- [ ] I can read first sentences of paragraphs
- [ ] I can understand the big picture

Scanning Skills

- [ ] I can find specific numbers quickly
- [ ] I can locate names and dates
- [ ] I can search for key words
- [ ] I can ignore irrelevant information

Years 5-6

Part 2: Developing Skills

Taking your reading speed to the next level

Advanced Skimming Techniques

The PREVIEW Method

- **P** **Purpose** - Why are you reading this?
- **R** **Read** - Titles, headings, subheadings
- **E** **Examine** - Pictures, graphs, charts
- **V** **Visualise** - What the text might be about
- **I** **Inquire** - What questions might be asked?
- **E** **Evaluate** - First and last paragraphs
- **W** **Wrap up** - Summarise main points mentally

Advanced Skimming Tips

- Look for signal words like "however," "therefore," "in conclusion"
- Pay attention to numbers, dates, and proper nouns
- Notice text features: bold, italics, bullet points
- Read topic sentences (usually first sentence of paragraphs)

Strategic Scanning Methods

The TARGET Method

- **T** **Think** about what you're looking for
- **A** **Anticipate** where it might be
- **R** **Run** your eyes quickly over text
- **G** **Grab** the information when found
- **E** **Examine** the context around it
- **T** **Transfer** to your answer

Scanning Patterns

Z-Pattern: Left to right, down, left to right

Column Scan: Straight down for lists or tables

Block Scan: Focus on one section at a time

Keyword Jump: Bounce between similar words

Time Management Tips

Question First

Always read questions before the text to know what to look for

Speed Reading

Practice reading 200-250 words per minute with understanding

Energy Management

Start with easier questions to build confidence and momentum

Time Allocation Strategy

25%	45%	25%	5%
Reading questions	Reading & understanding text	Answering questions	Checking answers

Practice Exercise 3: The Future of Transportation

Time Challenge: Read and answer questions in 6 minutes

The Future of Transportation

Imagine stepping into a car that drives itself, or catching a train that travels at 300 kilometres per hour without touching the tracks. These futuristic ideas are becoming reality faster than we might think. Transportation technology is evolving rapidly, promising to revolutionise how we travel in the coming decades.

Autonomous Vehicles

Self-driving cars use a combination of cameras, sensors, and artificial intelligence to navigate roads without human intervention. Companies like Tesla, Google, and traditional car manufacturers are investing billions of dollars in this technology. Experts predict that by 2035, approximately 40% of new vehicles sold will have some level of autonomous capability. The benefits include reduced accidents (95% of serious traffic crashes are due to human error), improved traffic flow, and increased mobility for elderly and disabled individuals.

Hyperloop Technology

The Hyperloop concept, popularised by entrepreneur Elon Musk, involves passenger pods travelling through low-pressure tubes at speeds exceeding 1000 kilometres per hour. Several companies are currently testing prototypes, with the first commercial routes

potentially opening in the Middle East and Europe within the next decade. This technology could make it possible to travel from Sydney to Melbourne in just 55 minutes.

Electric Aviation

Electric aircraft are being developed for short-distance flights, with several companies planning commercial operations by 2030. These aircraft produce zero emissions during flight and operate much more quietly than traditional planes. However, current battery technology limits their range to approximately 400 kilometres, making them suitable primarily for regional travel.

While these technologies offer exciting possibilities, challenges remain. Infrastructure development, safety regulations, and public acceptance will all play crucial roles in determining how quickly these innovations become mainstream. Nevertheless, the transportation landscape of 2040 will likely look dramatically different from today.

Questions:

Skimming Questions:

1. What is the main topic of this article?
2. Which three types of future transportation are discussed?
3. What is the overall tone of the article about future transportation?

Scanning Questions:

4. By what year do experts predict 40% of new vehicles will be autonomous?
5. How long would it take to travel from Sydney to Melbourne using Hyperloop?
6. What percentage of serious traffic crashes are due to human error?
7. What is the approximate range limit for electric aircraft?
8. When do companies plan to begin commercial electric aircraft operations?

Analysis Questions:

9. What are two benefits of autonomous vehicles mentioned in the text?
10. What challenges might prevent these technologies from becoming mainstream quickly?

☑ Years 5-6 Self-Assessment Checklist

Rate your confidence (1 = needs practice, 3 = confident, 5 = expert):

Advanced Reading Skills

I can use the PREVIEW method effectively	1	2	3	4	5
I can identify signal words and text features	1	2	3	4	5
I can use the TARGET scanning method	1	2	3	4	5
I can manage my time effectively during tests	1	2	3	4	5

Year 7

Part 3: Mastery Level

Advanced strategies for exceptional performance

Sophisticated Rapid Reading Strategies

Critical Reading Framework

1. **Analyse Purpose:** Why did the author write this?
2. **Identify Perspective:** What viewpoint is presented?
3. **Evaluate Evidence:** How convincing are the arguments?
4. **Consider Context:** What's the broader picture?

Text Structure Recognition

Chronological: Events in time order

Compare/Contrast: Similarities and differences

Cause/Effect: Reasons and consequences

Problem/Solution: Issues and resolutions

Descriptive: Detailed explanations

Argumentative: Claims and supporting evidence

Critical Skimming and Scanning

The MASTER Strategy

- **M** **Map** the text structure first
- **A** **Analyse** the question types
- **T** **Target** information efficiently
- **E** **Evaluate** and synthesise information

S **Strategise** your reading approach

R **Review** and refine answers

Advanced Question Analysis

Explicit Questions

Information directly stated in text

Strategy: Scan for keywords

Implicit Questions

Requires inference and interpretation

Strategy: Read between the lines

Applied Questions

Use text to solve new problems

Strategy: Connect and extend ideas

Practice Exercise 4: Climate Change and Biodiversity

Time Challenge: Read and answer questions in 8 minutes

Climate Change and Biodiversity: An Interconnected Crisis

The relationship between climate change and biodiversity loss represents one of the most pressing environmental challenges of our time. While these phenomena are often discussed separately, they are intrinsically linked, creating a complex web of cause and effect that threatens the stability of ecosystems worldwide.

The Vicious Cycle

Climate change accelerates biodiversity loss through multiple mechanisms. Rising global temperatures force species to migrate to new habitats, disrupting established ecological relationships. Ocean acidification, caused by increased carbon dioxide absorption, devastates marine ecosystems, particularly coral reefs which support approximately 25% of marine species despite covering less than 1% of the ocean floor. Furthermore, extreme weather events—floods, droughts, and hurricanes—destroy habitats faster than species can adapt.

Conversely, biodiversity loss exacerbates climate change. Forests, which act as carbon sinks by absorbing CO_2 from the atmosphere, become less effective when deforestation reduces their coverage. The Amazon rainforest alone stores an estimated 150-200 billion tonnes of carbon—more than ten times the annual global carbon emissions. When these ecosystems are destroyed, stored carbon is released back into the atmosphere, accelerating global warming.

Economic Implications

The economic consequences of this interconnected crisis are staggering. The World Bank estimates that biodiversity loss could cost the global economy $2.7 trillion annually by 2030. Agricultural productivity, which depends on pollinators like bees and natural pest control, faces significant threats. Approximately 75% of global food crops rely on animal pollination, yet pollinator populations have declined by 25% in Europe and North America since 1990.

Innovative Solutions

Despite the challenges, innovative conservation strategies offer hope. Nature-based solutions, such as reforestation projects and wetland restoration, simultaneously address both climate change and biodiversity loss. The concept of 'rewilding'—allowing ecosystems to restore themselves naturally—has shown promising results. In Yellowstone National Park, the reintroduction of wolves in 1995 triggered a trophic cascade that restored vegetation and improved biodiversity throughout the ecosystem.

Technology also plays a crucial role. Satellite monitoring systems track deforestation in real-time, enabling rapid response to illegal logging. Genetic rescue techniques help endangered species adapt to changing conditions, while conservation drones monitor wildlife populations more effectively than traditional methods. However, experts emphasise that technological solutions must be coupled with policy changes and international cooperation to be truly effective.

Questions:

Explicit Questions (Direct Information):

1. What percentage of marine species do coral reefs support?
2. How much carbon does the Amazon rainforest store?
3. When were wolves reintroduced to Yellowstone National Park?

Implicit Questions (Inference Required):

4. Why does the author describe climate change and biodiversity as an "interconnected crisis"?
5. What can be inferred about the importance of forests from the information provided?
6. How does the Yellowstone wolf example support the concept of rewilding?

Applied Questions (Analysis and Evaluation):

7. Analyse the relationship between economic costs and environmental damage described in the text.
8. Evaluate the effectiveness of the solutions presented. Which approach seems most promising and why?
9. How might the decline in pollinator populations specifically affect food security in your region?

10. Synthesise the information to explain why international cooperation is essential for addressing these issues.

Year 7 Mastery Assessment

Advanced Skills Checklist - Can you confidently do these?

Critical Reading Mastery

- [ ] I can identify author's purpose and perspective within 30 seconds
- [ ] I can recognise text structures and their implications
- [ ] I can evaluate the strength of arguments and evidence
- [ ] I can make sophisticated inferences and connections

Strategic Application

- [ ] I can adapt my reading strategy based on question types
- [ ] I can efficiently manage complex, multi-part questions
- [ ] I can synthesise information from multiple sources
- [ ] I can maintain accuracy under time pressure

Strategy Summary Cards

Cut out these cards for quick reference during practice and tests

SKIMMING STRATEGY

When to use: Getting the main idea quickly

✓ Read title, headings, subheadings
✓ Look at pictures, graphs, bold text
✓ Read first and last paragraphs
✓ Read first sentence of each paragraph
✓ Notice signal words (however, therefore)

Goal: Understand 70% of content in 30%

SCANNING STRATEGY

When to use: Finding specific information

✓ Know exactly what you're looking for
✓ Use keywords from the question
✓ Move eyes quickly in patterns (Z, column)
✓ Stop when you find target information
✓ Read context around your find

Goal: Locate exact information in under 60

of time

seconds

TIME MANAGEMENT

Optimal time allocation:

- ✓ 25% - Reading questions first
- ✓ 45% - Reading and understanding text
- ✓ 25% - Answering questions
- ✓ 5% - Checking answers

Remember: Easy questions first, difficult ones last

QUESTION TYPES

Explicit: Directly stated → Scan for keywords

Implicit: Inferred meaning → Read between lines

Applied: Use info in new way → Connect ideas

Tip: Identify question type before reading text

Quick Reference Guide

Emergency Test-Day Checklist

Before Reading

- ▫ Read all questions first
- ▫ Identify question types
- ▫ Note time allocation
- ▫ Plan reading strategy

During Reading

- ▫ Use appropriate speed
- ▫ Mark key information
- ▫ Stay focused on purpose
- ▫ Don't get stuck on details

After Reading

- ▫ Answer easy questions first
- ▫ Return to text for details
- ▫ Check time remaining
- ▫ Review answers if time permits

Common Mistakes to Avoid

- ✗ Reading the text without knowing the questions
- ✗ Spending too long on difficult passages
- ✗ Reading every word when skimming
- ✗ Ignoring text features and visual elements
- ✗ Choosing the first answer that looks right

Success Strategies

- ✓ Practice these techniques regularly
- ✓ Time yourself during practice sessions
- ✓ Read diverse text types regularly
- ✓ Build your vocabulary daily
- ✓ Stay calm and confident during tests

Remember: Practice Makes Perfect!

These strategies become automatic with practice. Start slowly, focus on accuracy, then build speed. Every expert was once a beginner who never gave up.

Skim • Scan • Score