

## Classroom activities for Speed reading (scanning)

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*Classroom activity: Speed reading*

**Timing** 5 minutes

**Materials** **worksheet: Speed reading**

**Rationale** To encourage students to scan a text for relevant information as quickly as possible. To show students that they can sometimes find information based on the shape and structure of the numbers and letters on the page. To use an awareness of text layout.

### Procedure

1. Ask the students to work individually and give them a copy of the **worksheet: Speed Reading**.
2. Tell them that they are in a race against the other students. Ask them to scan the text as quickly as possible and write down: three tour start times; two prices; two ages and one phone number. You can slow write these on the board if you wish. When they have found the information they must put their hand up.
3. When the first student puts up their hand, check that they have the correct answers (see key to worksheet, below).
4. Ask the winner how s/he found the information so quickly.
5. Elicit the fact that the answers are all numbers and they have a specific shape. Once the first tour start time has been located it is easy to find the others because the passage has a defined structure. Remind students that in any situation, whether in an exam or in daily life, they can use their knowledge of the world around them to understand texts better. Ask if there are other items of text which might be easy to find because of their shape. Elicit the idea that names are easy to find because they start with a capital letter, and that the topic of the text should be easy to find because it usually appears as a title in a text.

### Key to worksheet

Start times: 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m.

Prices: £4.50, £3.50

Ages: 26, 12

Phone number: 020 7426 8462

### Additional points

This example uses a text which is suitable for B1 learners, but you could use a different text to produce the same activity for a lower or higher level.

## Worksheet: Speed reading

### London Weekend Walks

We are the oldest walking tour company in London and offer a wide variety of routes with the best tour guides in London.

To go on one of our walks, simply meet your guide and fellow walkers in the street outside the underground stations and at the times given below. Your guide will have copies of this information sheet in his hand.

Below is our range of walks for this Saturday.

#### 1000 Years of History

##### **11.00 am Westminster Underground**

This walk is essential for the first-time visitor. We'll show you the place where kings and queens are crowned, where they lived and often where they are buried. You will see where politicians have shaped the course of history over the years. This walk finishes at the Houses of Parliament, which you can visit afterwards at a good discount.

#### Historic Greenwich

##### **2.00 pm Tower Hill Underground**

The walk begins with the best boat ride in London, five kilometres down the river from Tower Bridge to the Royal Naval College in Greenwich. From there you'll walk through Greenwich Park past the Naval Museum and other historic buildings to the village itself. We'll take you down narrow streets with busy antique shops and markets, back to the riverside where this walk ends.

*The boat trip costs £3.50 on top of the normal price (see below).*

#### Canals and Cafés

##### **11.00 am Camden Town Underground**

Camden Town, with its canals, cafés and studios, is the home of many artists, musicians and writers. The high point of the walk is a visit to Camden Lock, London's brightest and most exciting street market. You may like to take a canal trip to London Zoo after this walk.

#### Unexpected London

##### **3.00 pm Tower Hill Underground**

This walk begins with a ride on Europe's most modern city railway giving you fine views across the Thames and the riverside area. We will get on and off the train for mini-walks to explore the hidden corners of the former port of London.

*You should buy a two-zone underground ticket at the beginning of your journey.*

All these walks last about two hours and end near underground stations. The walks take place in all weathers.

Large groups are requested to phone and let us know they are coming.

A walk costs £4.50 (£3.50 for senior citizens and full-time students under 26 with an identity card). Children under 12 go free but they must be with a responsible adult. If you plan to go on several walks, ask your guide about a discount card.

LONDON WEEKEND WALKS  
PO Box 1526, LONDON NW8 6SW

TEL: 020 7426 8462