

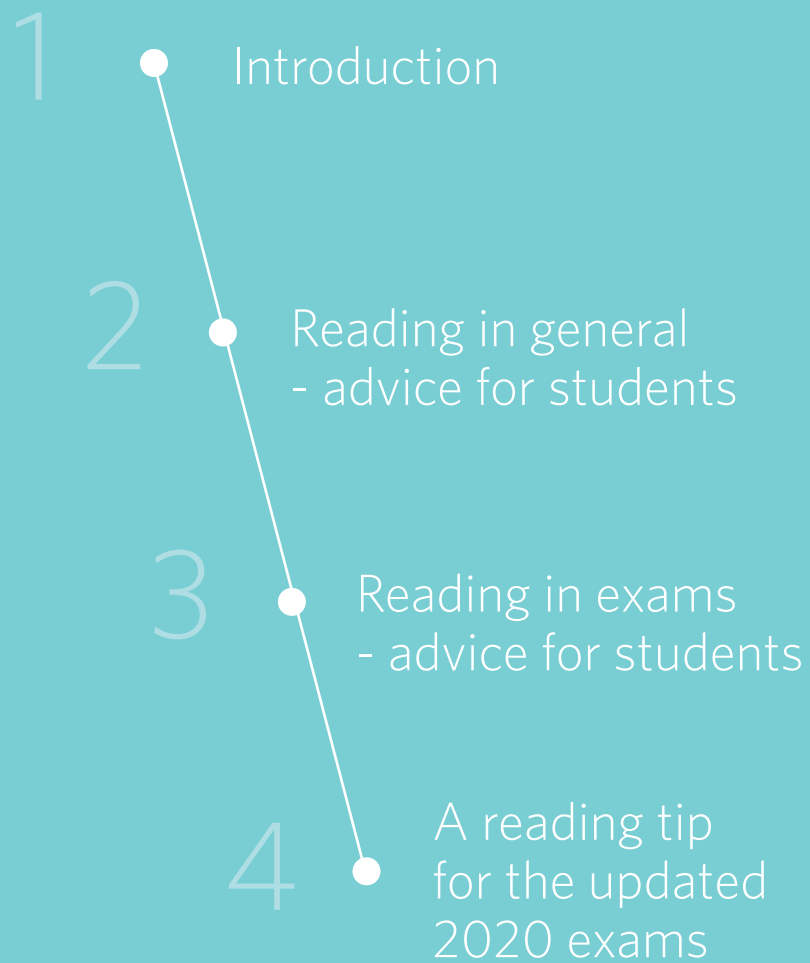


# Tips for reading



A brief guide with tips for reading inside  
and outside the classroom

# Contents

- 
- 1 Introduction
  - 2 Reading in general  
- advice for students
  - 3 Reading in exams  
- advice for students
  - 4 A reading tip  
for the updated  
2020 exams

# 1 • Introduction

- This guide is aimed at teachers preparing students for a Cambridge English Qualification such as A2 Key or A2 Key for Schools, B1 Preliminary or B1 Preliminary for Schools.

The guide contains some simple, practical steps for students to help them improve their reading in English and develop their reading skills and strategies in a reading test.

The guide also includes one lesson activity idea for Reading Part 1 from the January 2020 revised A2 Key and A2 Key for Schools.

## 2 • Reading in general advice for students

### A



#### **Read as much as possible.**

Try to read in English as often as possible. A little bit every day or two helps a lot. Go back and re-read texts a second time and a third time. This helps to familiarise you with the use of English in real sentences and expressions.

### B



#### **Read for fun.**

Reading is at its most enjoyable when the flow is uninterrupted, when you get absorbed in a good story or an interesting article, when time flies by. It's no different when you read in a another language. If a text is too difficult, if there are too many words or phrases you don't understand, then reading becomes difficult, it stops being fun. Where possible, don't just read for study and work purposes, read things that interest you too.



# 3 • Reading in exams

## advice for students



### A

#### **Be prepared.**

Know exactly what each type of question is asking you to do. Is it a multiple choice? Is it filling in the gaps of a text? How many words do you have to write? How much time do you have? It's a good idea to underline important words in any exam question to help you focus on the instructions.

### B



#### **Speed up.**

In exam situations you will often need to read a text more quickly than before. Practise reading texts quickly: you can time yourself. For example, give yourself 3 minutes to read 300 words, then give yourself 2 minutes to read 300 words, then try in 1 minute. You can repeat this idea with the same text at first, but then try it with different texts as you get better at it.



## C

### **Don't freeze.**

Remember, in an exam you aren't allowed to ask someone or look up a new word. If you don't know a word, and you can't guess a general meaning from the other words around it, then skip it, don't waste time!



## D

### **Make predictions.**

When a question gives you multiple answers to choose from, try to answer the question without looking at the answers first. Then look at the answers and check if one matches your prediction.



## E

### **Practise.**

There are lots of materials available to help you prepare for Cambridge English Qualifications such as A2 Key or B1 Preliminary. Get as much practice as you can with different question types from the reading paper. You can find information on our books from Cambridge University Press in [www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org) and links to extra resources, sample tests, and more from Cambridge Assessment English in [www.cambridgeenglish.org](http://www.cambridgeenglish.org)

# 4 • A reading tip for the updated 2020 exams

- New exam formats will start being used from January 2020 for A2 Key and A2 Key for Schools and B1 Preliminary and B1 Preliminary for Schools. The Reading and Writing paper in A2 Key and A2 Key for Schools will be shortened from 9 parts to 7 parts.

## READING PART 1

A

### What is it?

Six short texts with multiple choice sentences.

B

### What do you have to do?

Read each text and choose the correct sentence: A, B or C.

>>

This tip is for the updated Reading and Writing Part 1. The activity in this tip also works with B1 Preliminary and B1 Preliminary for Schools Reading Part 1.



# Tip: Thinking about the main purpose of a short text

PREPARATION →

Copy and cut up six short texts and questions taken from any A2 Key or Key for Schools Reading Part 1. Prepare one set for each group of 5 or 6 students.

🕒 **TIME** About 15 mins

👥 **AGE** Any

## Step

### 1



Give each group the six cut up texts  
(not the questions)

What kind  
of text is it?

Where can  
you see texts  
like this?

Share ideas

# Step

# 2



Next, give each group  
the six questions

Match the  
questions to the  
correct text

Which words  
helped you?

Check together

**BIG CLASSES**

→ Put each text on the wall and ask students to move around the class in pairs or small groups. Then, give all the 6 questions to each group on a handout and ask them to match each question to a different text on the wall.



For more tips and lessons on reading for exams visit  
[practicemakesperfect.cambridge.org](https://practicemakesperfect.cambridge.org)

## Experts together

Your classroom is where the learning takes place. You are the facilitator, the language guide, the coach. You understand your learners and their needs. You are the experts. We listen to you, building our materials from what you tell us you need.



## Experts together

Our aim is to deliver the materials you tell us you need. Exclusive insights from test development and candidate performance guarantee expert content. The result is a unique Exam Journey in each course, ensuring every student is ready on exam day. From skills development to exam tasks, language discovery to real-world usage, we create better learning experiences, together.

Experience

Better

Learning