

I. Reading skills

Predicting



Skill Express

- 1. Predicting is the skill of applying your common sense or knowledge to guess what the passage is about.
- 2. The predicting process should be done before you start reading the whole passage.
- 3. You will need help from the title / heading of the reading passage.
- 4. With the predicting skill, you will be able to speed up your reading process and get the general idea of a passage easily.
- 5. Good predicting skill helps answer **gist** or **thematic** questions, which may come in the form of multiple-choice questions or short questions.

ABC Vocabulary Building

gist (n.) the main or general meaning of a passage

thematic (adj.) connected with the theme

Do You Know?

The title of a passage is often in italics.

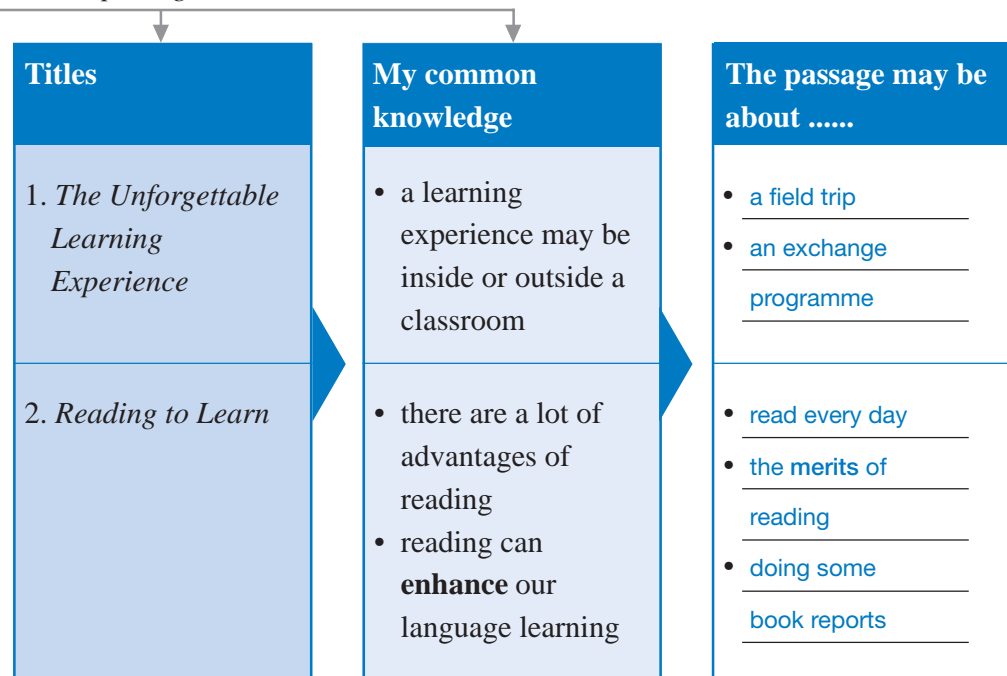
By reading the title and using your common knowledge, you may predict what the passage is about.

If you don't know the correct answer, first try eliminating the wrong options. It is sometimes easier to find the wrong options than the correct one. Usually you can narrow down four options to one or two reasonable ones.



Demonstration

- A. By reading the following titles and using your common knowledge, guess what the passages are about.



ABC Vocabulary Building

merit (n.) advantage; a good quality

enhance (v.) to strengthen

3. From the title *Computer – The Learning Aid*, the passage is most probably about using the computer to
- A. learn first aid from the Internet.
 - B. chat with friends online.
 - C. learn how to play online games.
 - D. find educational information on the Internet.



Work It Out

B. Answer the following questions.

(12 marks)

By reading the following titles and using your common knowledge, guess what the passages may be about and fill in the blanks.

Titles	My common knowledge	The passage may be about
1. <i>The Four Skills in Learning English</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> there are commonly four skills in every language learning process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> _____ _____ _____ _____
2. <i>Cultural Exchange – The Amazing Week in Singapore</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Singaporean are good at both Chinese and _____ students always have _____ in the long holiday 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> _____ _____ _____ _____



Watch Out!

Some multiple-choice options contain the same wordings as those in the text but they may not be the correct answer.

Answer the following questions with the skill of predicting.

- From the title *How to Master a Foreign Language*, the passage is most probably about
 - learning English.
 - a master who can speak a foreign language.
 - doing a Master's degree in a foreign country.
 - learning a language which is not your **mother tongue**.
- From the title '*Harry Potter and the Secret Chamber*' is Wonderful, we can predict that the passage probably wants to
 - tell the merits of reading.
 - recommend a good book to readers.
 - tell readers that a secret chamber is wonderful.
 - introduce the wonderful character Harry Potter.
- What could you predict the passage is about with the title *Listening to Songs – A New Approach to Vocabulary Building*?

Vocabulary Building

amazing (adj.) wonderful; fantastic

mother tongue (n.) the language which a person first speaks

Do You Know?

You have to memorize phrasal verbs and try to use them as much as you can.

Phrasal verbs

- Phrasal verbs are the formations of a verb and an adverb or a preposition.
- The meaning of some phrasal verbs is easy to understand because the verb and the adverb / preposition keep their usual meaning (e.g. *look around*, *eat out*).
- The meaning of many phrasal verbs is difficult to understand because the verb and the adverb / preposition together make up a new meaning that you need to learn (e.g. *take up* = to start to do, *take over* = to gain control of something).



Work It Out

M. Choose suitable phrasal verbs from the box to fill in the blanks. (8 marks)

came down on	got round	messed around	owned up
set off	set out	split up	take on

The Social Service Society has organized a visit to an orphanage last week. It was a great learning experience.

We (1) _____ twenty students to join us and we (2) _____ for the orphanage in Tai Po early that morning. When we arrived, we (3) _____ the chairs for our activities. There were a mini drama and some games. Then we (4) _____ into groups to chat with them.

In the beginning, some junior students (5) _____ and ignored the little children. Luckily, they (6) _____ to their mishaviour after we (7) _____ them.

From this activity, I hope all participants can learn something and are willing to (8) _____ new responsibilities.



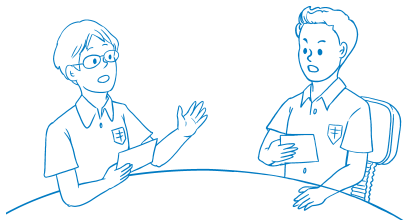
Your Turn

Work in pairs. Tear out the flap card of Chapter 1 on the front cover.

Student A: Look at Student A's side.

Student B: Look at Student B's side.

Student A and student B are reading some titles of passages and predicting what the passages are about. Though the titles they are reading are different, they are similar to each other. Student A and student B should talk to each other and match their titles.





Summing Up

I. Reading skills

Predicting

Use your common sense or knowledge to predict what the passage will be about.

Skimming

Get the overall meaning of the passage with the help of titles, subheadings, topic sentences, opening and concluding paragraphs as well as key words.

Scanning

Read quickly to locate useful information in the passage.

II. Writing skills

Writing a leaflet

A leaflet is a piece of information sheet, delivering factual information to readers.

Writing a story

- A story should have a beginning, body and ending.
- Basic elements of a story:
 1. setting
 2. characters
 3. plot
 4. closure

III. Grammar drills

Tense

- Simple present tense talks about things that happen at present time. (e.g. *I am a student.*)
- Present continuous tense talks about things that are happening at the moment. (e.g. *You are reading this book.*)
- Simple past tense talks about things that happened in the past. (e.g. *I met him yesterday.*)
- Past continuous tense talks about things happening at a particular moment in the past. (e.g. *They were singing when she came.*)

Phrasal verbs

Phrasal verbs are the combinations of verbs and adverbs or prepositions. (*give up, put on*)



Self Evaluation

I. Reading skills

Work It Out	B. Predicting (p.3)	/12
	D. Skimming (p.5)	/4
	F. Scanning (p.7)	/3
Test Your Understanding (p.16)		/16
Total marks		/35*

* 31–35 : Excellent 24–30 : Good 18–23 : Average 9–17 : Below average <9 : Poor

II. Writing skills

Work It Out	I. Writing a leaflet (p.9)	/3
	K. Writing a story (p.12)	/5
Total marks		/8*

* 7–8 : Good 5–6 : Average 3–4 : Below average <3 : Poor

Give yourself a mark by putting a tick in the appropriate box. (1: poor; 6: excellent)

			1	2	3	4	5	6	
Test Your Understanding	Task 1 (p.18)	1. Giving useful advice							
		2. Using persuasive and interesting language							
		3. Using the correct tenses							
	Task 2 (p.19)	1. Including a beginning, a body and an ending							
		2. Having all basic elements (setting, characters, plot and closure)							
		3. Expressing how you felt							
		4. Telling what you have learnt							
		5. Using the correct tenses							
	Total marks								/48*

* 42–48 : Excellent 33–41 : Good 24–32 : Average 12–23 : Below average <12 : Poor

III. Grammar drills

Work It Out	L. Tense (p.13)	/12
	M. Phrasal verbs (p.14)	/8
Total marks		/20*

*16–20: Good 10–15: Average 5–9: Below Average <5: Poor