

**ANNUAL PREPARATORY PROGRAMME FOR ENHANCEMENT IN
ACADEMICS AND REVISION (APPEAR)
CLASS XII, ENGLISH CORE - 301
MODULE - III (READING SKILLS PART-III)**

Module Details	
Subject Name	English Core
Course Name	Annual Preparatory Programme for Enhancement in Academics and Revision (APPEAR) in English for Class XII
Module Name/Title	Reading Skills (Part-III)
Module Id	leeg_r3
Pre-requisite	Reading Part I & II desirable. Ability to use different reading strategies.
Learning Outcomes	<p>After carefully reading this module and working on the suggested activities, you will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify topic sentence in a paragraph, • distinguish main ideas from supporting details, • differentiate between topic and main idea, • identify the author's purpose, and • recognise the tone of the passage.
Keywords	Topic sentence, main idea, supporting details, tone of text

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INTRODUCTION

In the second module on reading, you were introduced to different techniques or strategies of reading such as skimming, scanning, contextual clues and inferring meaning for comprehension. In this module, you will be made aware of the importance of understanding the topic, main ideas and supporting details. This module will also help you understand the author's purpose and tone for writing. As a reader it is important that you are able to draw conclusions, analyse, evaluate and interpret chapters from your textbooks or articles from journals, magazines, blogs, websites, etc., for overall comprehension when you are reading.

If you want to be a good dancer or a footballer, you practice. Similarly, if you want to be a better reader, you need to practice reading. Make reading a habit and keep reading whatever you can lay your hands on, newspapers, magazines, tweets, blogs, current events, sports, etc., whatever interests you. Every time you read, you're exposed to someone else's ideas and to their way of writing: their choice of words, vocabulary, knowledge base, use of language, and so forth. So, the more you read, the better a reader you become and the more knowledge you will derive.

IDENTIFYING THE TOPIC SENTENCE

Your textbook chapters, articles, paragraphs, sentences, or passages all have topics and main ideas. The topic sentence tends to be a general rather than a specific idea. The ability to

identify the topic sentence in a paragraph of what you are reading will make you a better reader. Look at the examples below.

Topic (General)

Fast food restaurants

Food allergies

Specific

McDonalds, Kentucky Fried Chicken

Types of food allergies

Activity-1

A. Read the paragraph and choose the best topic sentence from the options given below.

Television first appeared in living colour in 1953. People began taking colour photographs in 1935. Colourful music history was made in 1970 when a frog puppet named Kermit croaked out the song “Bein’ Green.” The year 1968 marked a milestone in another colour with the release of the movie *The Yellow Submarine* starring the Beatles. Traffic signals appeared in 1920. Another colourful event occurred in 1927 when bathtubs and sinks—once only available in white—were sold in tones such as Spring Green, Autumn Brown, and Horizon Blue for the first time.

Choose the most suitable topic sentence

- a) Colourful music and Television history.
- b) Importance of colour in our life.
- c) The invention of Television.
- d) History is full of colourful events.

Answer:

B. First read the two topic sentences (A&B). Next, read the 6 other sentences given below. From these 6 sentences pick 3 other sentences for each of the two topic sentences and put them in the right order below the correct topic sentence.

A. *Today, technology plays a major role in our learning process.* B. *My brother is going to buy a bigger house.*

1) 1)

2) 2)

3) 3)

Now, draw two columns A & B in your notebook. Next, pick 3 sentences each for topic sentence A & B and place them in the correct column.

- i) You can look for materials for your homework.
- ii) As the current house is becoming small and old.
- iii) So I am looking forward to stay all alone in the old house.
- iv) You can also read e-books and use online dictionaries.
- v) He also needs open space for the kids and our parents.
- vi) You can use them in different ways.

MAIN IDEA

Now that you have learned how to identify a topic sentence, let us look at how to identify the main idea which is one of the most important reading skills to master. The main idea is a primary point or key concept that the author wants you to know, think, or feel after reading the text. The author can locate the main idea in different places within a paragraph and is not always clearly stated. It can be implied through other words in the paragraph or inferred and stated in your words. To find the main idea, ask yourself these questions about the text:

- Who or what is the passage about?
- What does the author want me to know, think or feel about this ‘who’ or ‘what’?
- If I had to tell someone in one sentence what this passage is about, what would I say?

After you have the main idea in mind, check whether all the details in the passage fit that main idea.

Activity-2

Read the short paragraph and locate the topic sentence and the main idea of the paragraph.

Ever wondered which pet is a better pet - a dog or a cat? In my opinion, it isn't even close. A dog is much better than a cat. To start with, a dog will be very loyal to you for life. As soon as you walk in the door, your dog will be waiting with a tail wagging. The cat will be hiding behind a curtain. Dogs also help to keep you healthier because they love to walk. Taking a dog on a walk once or twice a day will keep your dog happy, and get you exercising. Try taking a cat on a walk. You won't make it down the block until your cat refuses to go any further and you end up carrying the cat back to your house. Trust me - stick with a dog when getting a new pet.

1. The theme of this paragraph is

- a) Dogs Vs Cats
- b) Dogs are more loyal
- c) The best pet

2. The main idea is

- a) to understand the difference between a pet dog and a cat.
- b) to help people know how to take care of a pet.
- c) to persuade the reader to get a dog instead of a cat as a pet.

SUPPORTING DETAILS

As mentioned in the previous section, the main idea is the key concept being expressed. Supporting details on the other hand, are details, major and minor that supports the main idea by telling you how, what, when, where, why, how much, or how many. Locating the topic, main idea, and supporting details will help you understand the point(s) the writer is attempting to make. Identifying the relationship between these will increase your comprehension. Sometimes, the supporting details will include transitional words such as first, second, moreover, besides, finally, consequently, etc. and phrases to signal their significance.

Activity-3

Read the passage carefully and answer the following questions in your notebook.

Travelling has many benefits and is always a life-changing experience. Many people believe that travelling is the best way to relax. The reasons why people love travelling nowadays can vary from person to person. When you travel, you meet different people and see different cultures that you don't get to see otherwise. By learning about new cultures and new people you widen your perspective on life. Some people like to explore what the world has in store for them including people, places and cultures. Another reason why people love travelling is that travelling helps in opening up your mind. The world is vast, it's huge. Meeting new people will make you realise that life is not the same for everyone. You will start looking at other people's perspective and that broadens your mind. Talking to different people changes the way you look at things. It is a great reason why people love travelling. One more reason people love travelling is adventure! A spike in the adrenalin is what people look for. Scuba diving in the Great Barrier Reef or hiking in Machu Picchu or Zip-lining in Peru anything that drives you crazy and yet is exciting for you is an adventurous trip. Adventure is the best way to travel to places and get out of your comfort zone. (Source: <https://bit.ly/330Owrs>)

1) Which of the following sentence is not a supporting detail?

- a) Travelling has many benefits and is always a life-changing experience.
- b) Talking to different people changes the way you look at things.
- c) One more reason people love travelling is adventure!

2) Write any two supporting details from the paragraph.

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DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TOPIC AND MAIN IDEA

It is important that you understand the difference between a main idea and the topic. Imagine that you are listening to a conversation between your mother and your neighbour about their plants. The TV is on and your brother is running around the house, so all you could hear them talked about was plants. Your father walks in and asked you the topic of their conversation, you would say 'plants'. As you could not hear the whole conversation, you did not understand the 'main idea' which was whose plant is flowering now and how to get rid of bugs on plants. Remember the topic is very broad and the main idea is more specific. Note the reading-writing connection while you are looking for the main idea as a reader, you will be using the main ideas to write topic sentences in paragraphs.

UNDERSTAND THE AUTHOR'S PURPOSE

An author's purpose is the main reason or the intent he or she has for writing something. To be able to identify and understand the author's purpose will help you comprehend any reading text better. The three basic purposes are to:

- persuade: mostly argues a point or tries to convince, like an advertisement or a newspaper article urging you to recycle kitchen waste.
- inform: mostly presents information or explains factual information, like in a textbook or a news report about a shooting incident.
- entertain: mostly provides entertainment, like a poem or Harry Potter or a script for a TV show.

Activity-4

A. Read the three passages carefully and identify the author's purpose whether it is to persuade, inform or entertain in each passage.

- 1) Professor Howard Gardner believes that people are smart in different ways. In his studies, he found many different kinds of intelligence. For example, some people have interpersonal intelligence. This means that they work well with others. They are also good at sensing other people's feelings. Counsellors and teachers have this kind of intelligence.

The author's purpose is to

2) Ramesh usually walks back with others to the village. But today he had to get to his tuition centre, and no one else was able to go with him. He was scared and as he was walking alone, when he heard a rustling in the woods. He started to walk faster. He thought, what if the rustling was a bear? He heard the rustling again. If the noise was a bear, he should not run. The bear would chase him. There was a loud cracking of a stick, and a cow bounded out on the path in front of him. Ramesh breathed a sigh of relief. Only a cow!

The author's purpose is to

3) At the upcoming Municipal meeting, the council will decide whether or not to destroy the Deer Park and turn it into a shopping mall as there are no more deer to be found. I am writing to tell you this is a bad idea. Hundreds of kids and families from different part of the city use the park each week. Also, it is a great place to hang out in the summer because of the full-grown trees throughout the park. Please think about the advantages of having a great park within city limits before taking a decision.

The author's purpose is to

Answer:

1) 2) 3)

B. Identify the author's purpose for the following sentences.

I-to inform

P-to persuade

E-to entertain

- i) Child labour should be banned.
- ii) Yawning is a natural response to being tired. It is usually triggered by sleepiness or fatigue.
- iii) The best way to babysit triplets is eat well in order to gain lots of energy, then have lots of patience, and keep a first-aid kit handy.

Answer:

i) ii) iii)

UNDERSTAND THE AUTHOR'S TONE

Tone is often defined as the author's attitude toward the subject and characters of a story and what the author feels about the subject. What you as a reader feel is known as the mood. Tone is important in determining the author's purpose of the story. It is not explained or expressed directly, but inferred through the choice of words and writing style. Remember to look at the words used, types of sentences, and author's descriptions to understand emotion and tone.

For example, how do you know someone is angry with you? It could be through their facial expressions or their tone. Remember, sometimes it is not what you say, but how you say it. In the same way, when you are reading, think of the tone of the writer—happy, sad, angry, etc. to help you understand the text better. Another example is your textbook, which is usually written in an objective tone which includes facts and reasonable explanations. This objective tone is matter-of-fact, therefore, it is unbiased or neutral. While, fiction and personal essays are usually written in a subjective tone which uses words that describe feelings, judgements, or opinions. Subjective tone is personal, biased, emotional, and often informal.

The tone in a story indicates a particular feeling. Some of the basic types of tone in writing includes, joyful, serious, sad, humorous, formal, informal, depressed, sympathetic, positive, angry, sentimental, etc. Your tone in writing will be reflective of your mood as you are writing.

Activity-5

Read the following statements carefully and choose the most appropriate tone each statement expresses about an apartment.

a) humorous b) serious c) objective d) positive e) sentimental
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- i) This is the apartment we live in. It provided us shelter and has a roof top garden.

- ii) This apartment may be old, but I was born here and my grandparents were still alive then. So, it has a special place in my heart.
- iii) I've decided that when we move away, we will release two hundred cockroaches and leave the place exactly lie we found it.
- iv) The apartment requires a lot of repairs now. I'm sure the owner will be making doing it soon.
- v) The apartment needs to come up with strict rules with regard to sales men/women and visitors entry.

Answer:

- i) ii)..... ii)..... iv)..... v).....

Activity-6

The following passage will help you check your understanding of the different reading strategies taught in this module. Read the passage carefully and respond to the questions.

The orangutan is Asia's great ape, once spread across Southeast Asia all the way to China but now restricted to the Indonesian and Malaysian Islands of Borneo and Sumatra. Orangutan means "person of the forest" in the Malay language. They are incredibly intelligent, inquisitive and are the largest tree-living mammal in the world. But since last month, they are now both on the ICUN critically endangered list, as the Borneo orangutan joined its Sumatran cousin in this dire classification after 50 percent of its population has been lost over the last 60 years.

The orangutan's greatest threat of survival is habitat loss, and their habitat is being squandered at an alarming, unprecedented rate for petty cheap palm oil and unsustainable logging. Companies are literally burning their home away to make way for plantations to produce these completely replaceable products. It's estimated that 300 football fields of forest are cleared every hour to make room for palm oil plantations, just to open the land – a large chunk of the only remaining forests that is habitat to the critically endangered orangutans — for palm oil plantations.

Palm oil is used in an array of thousands of products ranging from chips and donuts to soap and toothpaste. There are other options that can be used instead to replicate the palm oil in these consumer products or the palm oil can be sourced from more sustainable companies, grown responsibly. There are many brands that signed the Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil agreement and over the last few years that have successfully swapped their ingredients or sources of palm oil in the name of conserving these fast disappearing rain forests and the magnificent yet vulnerable creatures that live in them, in particular, the hardest hit, orangutan.

However earlier this year Greenpeace slammed major corporations for continuing to source their palm oil grown from deforested lands. Yet time goes by and all we are seeing empty words, while the deforestation rates of Indonesia are increasing instead of decreasing, all happening to meet continued demand from companies such as these. Thirty-one million hectares of rainforest has already been cleared in Indonesia since 1990, it is outrageous that this figure is on the rise with the understanding we have of the very real and irreversible consequences.

In the case of the orangutan, time is of uttermost importance and these global corporations must make changes now. It is estimated that in only a short ten years, the orangutan will be extinct. Ten short years, gone. For a cheap vegetable oil used to make some crisps and soaps. It is a depressing truth we as a society should be unwilling to bear. (Source: <https://bit.ly/2GTYcb7>)

On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, complete each of the statements given below by choosing the most appropriate answer.

- i) The passage is about:
 - a) extinction of orangutans
 - b) life of orangutans
 - c) importance of orangutans
 - d) preserving rain forest

- ii) The writer is trying to:
 - a) persuade people to adopt orangutans
 - b) inform people use of palm oil
 - c) convince people to visit the rain forest
 - d) inform people about orangutans and their plight

- iii) Orangutans means

 - a) greatest ape
 - b) person of the forest
 - c) friend of the forest
 - d) largest living mammal

- iv) What is the reason for roughly 300 football fields of forest being cleared every hour?
 - a) Construction of building
 - b) Clearing the forest
 - c) For planting different trees
 - d) Palm oil plantations

- v) How many hectares of rainforest has been cleared in Indonesia since 1990?
 - a) Sixty million
 - b) Thirteen million
 - c) Thirty-one million
 - d) Forty-three million

- vi) Find a word from the passage which mean the same as the following.
 - a) having or showing an interest in learning things; curious. (para 1)
 - b) the natural home or environment of an animal, plant, or other organism. (para 2)
 - c) things cannot be changed back to the way they were before.

Answer the following questions based on your understanding of the passage.

- vii) What is palm oil used for?

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viii) What is the biggest threat to orangutan's survival?

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ix) What needs to be saved in order to save orangutans?

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LET US SUM UP

In this module you have learned how to locate the topic, main idea, and supporting details. You have also learned how to identify and understand the author's tone and purpose. Understanding these will help you comprehend the point(s) the writer is attempting to express and will increase your comprehension. Always remember, you will require and develop reading skills that are different for different subjects and the purpose of your reading.

ANSWERS

Activity-1

A: d

B: Column A: vi-i-iv Column B: ii-v-iii

Activity-2

1-a 2-c

Activity-3

1-a

2- Pick any two from the paragraph.

- i) You meet different people and see different cultures that you don't get to see usually.
- ii) People love travelling is that travelling helps in opening your mind.
- iii) Talking to different people changes the way you look at things

Activity-4

A.

1: inform readers that people can be smart in many ways.

2: entertain readers with a story of a boy who heard noises in the woods

3: persuade readers that Deer Park is a great place and should not be destroyed.

B. i) P-to persuade ii) I-to inform iii) E-to entertain

Activity-5

i-objective ii-sentimental iii) humorous iv-positive v-serious

Activity-6

i-a ii-d iii-b iv-d v-c vi-a) inquisitive (para 1) b) habitat (para 2) c) irreversible (para 4)

Sample answers:

vii-Palm oil is a vegetable oil used in many products. It is used for cooking and popularly used for making chips and donuts. It is also used in soap and toothpaste.

viii-The biggest threat to orangutan's survival is habitat loss. This is happening because forest, their natural habitat is being cleared for cheap palm oil plantations.

ix-The forest, the orangutan's natural habitat needs to be saved to save them. Otherwise, in few years the orangutan will be extinct.

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