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>> Introduction

Success With Reading 4 is the fourth volume of a four-volume series of exercise books designed to develop reading competence and improve reading skills. The book contains 90 articles on various topics and multiple comprehension questions to test readers' ability to recall and understand what they read in the articles.

The book is divided into four units according to different subjects. Each unit concentrates on one reading strategy. By reading these articles, readers will equip themselves with not only reading capability but also knowledge about a wide variety of subjects including arts & literature, animals, history, science, and sports.

Key Features

• A Wide Variety of Reading Topics

The reading material in this book incorporates different themes and various topics in order to provide readers with life knowledge, including:

Social Studies	Arts & Literature	Science	Animals / Plants	Other Content Areas	Sports
	History		Health & Body		
	Geography & Places		Internet or Technology		Mystery
	Culture		Science		
	Politics / Economics				
	Language & Communication				
	Environment & Conservation				
	People				
	Food				

• A Wide Range of Reading Strategies

This book presents a wide range of effective reading strategies that can help readers become more strategic and effective in understanding any text in any subject. These reading strategies include:

1 Reading Skills help you practice some skills for understanding a text as a whole. The **Reading Skills** unit covers:

1 Main Idea

The **main idea** of a text is the key message it tries to convey. This might be an opinion or a fact. The main idea is often expressed in a thesis statement.

2 Supporting Details

A good article is always built on a foundation of facts, statistics, and other kinds of evidence that help to develop the author's main idea. These are called **supporting details**, because they "support" the author's argument.

3 Finding Bias

Writers have their own experiences, opinions, and beliefs. When you add all these together, they form a **bias**, or a particular point of view. Discovering a writer's bias can sometimes be difficult, but a good place to start is the language used and whether or not the writer portrays both sides of an argument fairly.

4 Making Inferences

Inference is when we guess at something we don't know using the information we do know. For example, if a friend looks angry when she opens the door, you can guess that something is wrong. Authors also use this kind of inference to make similar suggestions.

5 Author's Purpose and Tone

An author always has a goal in mind when he or she writes something. The goal might be to argue a point, to present an important problem, or even just to make the reader laugh. To achieve this goal, the author will adapt the vocabulary and the information presented, affecting the tone of the article.

6 Fact or Opinion

Facts are things that can be proved to be true—whether it be through tests, records, or documents—while **opinions** express the author's beliefs or judgments. Sometimes an opinion may read like a fact, but if the truth of it cannot be proved, it remains only an opinion.

7 Cause and Effect

A **cause** makes something happen, and an **effect** is the resulting action or event. The link between causes and their effects can sometimes be obvious; other times they are more subtle. To make identifying these relationships easier, look out for words that expressly imply a cause-effect relationship, such as "therefore," "as a result," or "consequently" to their readers.

8 Clarifying Devices

Writers strive to make their work both interesting and clear. They do this by using various **techniques**, **words**, and **phrases** that give the writing order and structure and that draw the reader's attention. To identify these devices, you'll need to be able to deconstruct a piece of writing structurally and recognize the tricks of the writer's trade.

9 Figurative Language

Writers use figurative language to invoke feelings or create images that leave a deep impression on the reader. Here are some examples of the figurative language that you will encounter in this book.

Similes compare one object with another using the words "like," "as," or "than" (e.g., "Her heart is harder than stone.").

Metaphors make more direct comparisons and usually equate one thing with another (e.g., "She has a heart of stone," or "All the world's a stage.") and are therefore more powerful than similes.

Personification is when a nonhuman object is given human qualities (e.g., "The sun strolled across the sky.").

Idioms are phrases that should not be taken literally and have a meaning other than those of the individual words (e.g., "To let the cat out of the bag" has nothing to do with cats, but instead means "to reveal a secret.").

Finally, **hyperbole** is an exaggeration that is used for added effect (e.g., "I've told you a million times!").

2 Word Study helps you practice some skills for building your vocabulary and understanding new vocabulary in a text. The **Word Study** unit covers:

1 Synonyms (Words With the Same Meaning)

Synonyms are words that have the same or almost the same meaning. Take "huge" and "gigantic" for example. English has nearly a million words, with many of them sharing a similar meaning. Being able to identify these words is a vital skill for improving your reading comprehension.

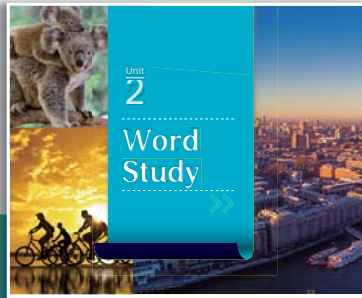
2 Antonyms (Words With Opposite Meanings)

Antonym is another way of saying "a word with an opposite meaning." Good and bad, big and small—all of these are antonym pairings. Sometimes, finding an antonym can be very easy. At other times, it can be a little challenging. Remember to always check the surrounding context for potential clues.

How Do I Use This Book?



- 1-1 Main Idea
- 1-2 Supporting Details
- 1-3 Making Inferences
- 1-4 Clarifying Devices
- 1-5 Figurative Language
- 1-6 Author's Purpose and Tone
- 1-7 Cause and Effect
- 1-8 Finding Bias
- 1-9 Fast Facts



- 2-1 Synonyms (Words With the Same Meaning)
- 2-2 Antonyms (Words With Opposite Meanings)
- 2-3 Words in Context
- 2-4 Review Test

A Wide Range of Reading Strategies

Each unit concentrates on one effective reading strategy that can help readers become more strategic and effective in understanding any text in any subject.

A Wide Variety of Reading Topics

The reading material incorporates different themes and various topics—including topics from arts, geography, history, culture, and science—to enrich readers' knowledge while strengthening their reading skills.

74 Pie Chart: Get Your Priorities Right!



Most of us know that diet and exercise are the two things you need to focus on if you want to lose a few pounds. Eating healthy foods is important, but probably the most vital element to cutting weight is working out. The only way to really burn those calories is by training hard in the gym. And while we all know a good night's sleep is...

39 Do You Like Me Now?

Hitting the "like" button on a post you approve of has become almost like second nature for most of us who belong to a social media site. A "like" here, a "like" there—pretty harmless, right? In fact, this seemingly innocuous act provides data miners with more than enough information to build an entire picture of who you are, whether you want to share this data or not.

A 2013 study revealed that by using computer programs to look for connections between seemingly unrelated things, such as having a high IQ and a love for curly fries, data miners could infer all sorts of information about an individual just from what he or she had "liked" online. The scope of the inferred information was shown to be truly broad—not just relatively simple things like age, gender, or political leanings, but also things like whether someone used addictive drugs and even whether an individual's parents would stay together.

A person turned 21 years old. It's enough to send shivers down your spine. Most of us have by now had the experience of being targeted by ads that seem to know exactly what we want before we've even said it out loud. It's not just the ads, either. I once received targeted ads for Europe before I'd even mentioned the idea to my partner. It's a wonder, then, that advertisers seem to have such uncanny...

17 Frozen Fields



Glaciers are enormous, moving streams of ice that have existed for anywhere between a century and millions of years. They cover approximately 0.5 percent of Earth's surface and are formed by the accumulation of snow, which over time compacts into what is called neve.

Neve constitutes the grainy outer layer of a glacier that has already survived one or more melting seasons. Substantial accumulations of neve become large ice crystals that are very dense and slightly blue in color.

Avalanches, freezing rain, and wind drifts are all important in maintaining a glacier. Glaciers lose snow to erosion, bowing, negotiation, and "caving" or a sudden separation due to breakage. The two most common types of glaciers are continental and valley glaciers.

The sheer mass of a glacier is sufficient for gravity to set it in motion. Glaciers move slowly down valleys and mountainsides. They are normally found at high latitudes and altitudes, where they tend to gain more snow in winter than they lose in summer. Although most of the world's glaciers are located near the Poles, they can be found on every continent except Australia.

48 Food Worth Saving: Preserving the World's Culinary Heritage

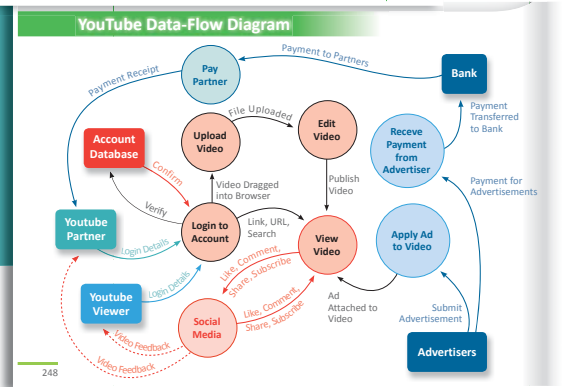
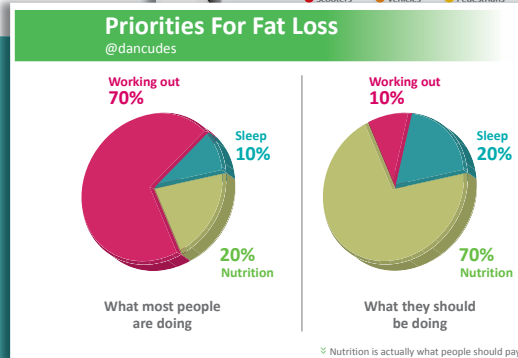
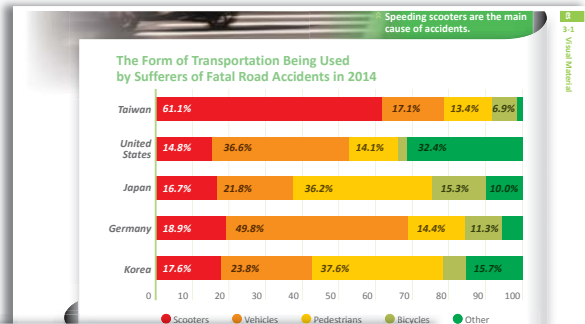


When you think of a country's culture, the first thing that comes to mind is often the food. But in an ever-globalizing world where Americans continue to grow in popularity, some culinary heritages could one day be lost. Luckily, the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage for Food is on a mission to preserve them. One of the most recent applicants is Singapore and its "hawker" food, a special type of food vendor who serves affordable, homemade food in large dingy rooms where Singaporean practices have already made the UNESCO list.

In Mexico, the growing and grinding of corn are ancient practices that are integral to maintaining social ties and promoting sustainable living. This cultural tradition is thus good for society and the planet, too.

Various Forms of Colorful Graphics

Various forms of colorful graphics help enhance readers' learning experience.



Questions

- Which of the following is closest in meaning to **dreary** in the first paragraph?
 - Tempting.
 - Depressing.
 - Encouraging.
 - Fascinating.
- What does this refer to in the second paragraph?
 - The correlation between reading and higher grades.
 - The habit of reading for pleasure.
 - The importance of becoming successful in life.
 - The finding of the undeniable truth.
- Why does the author say **disregard** the bestseller lists?
 - Some bestselling books are badly written.
 - What interests the majority may not interest you.
 - Large publishers can pay to put books on the list.
 - Books on bestseller lists all tend to be similar.
- Which of the following sentences uses **significant** in the same way as in the fourth paragraph?
 - You and your significant other are both invited to the party.
 - Steve Jobs is one of the most significant figures in modern history.
 - If you invest **significantly**, you could earn a significant sum of money.
 - The results of the study will be significant for anyone working in education.
- When someone is willing to do things without hesitation, he or she is NOT _____.
 - hopeful
 - empathetic
 - adaptable
 - reluctant

Focused, Meaningful Practice Tests

Each article is followed by five multiple-choice comprehension questions that reinforce word recognition and reading comprehension. Readers can evaluate themselves effectively by using these tests.



Unit

1

Reading Skills



1-1 Main Idea

1-2 Supporting Details

1-3 Making Inferences

1-4 Clarifying Devices

1-5 Figurative Language

1-6 Author's Purpose and Tone

1-7 Cause and Effect

1-8 Finding Bias

1-9 Fact or Opinion

1-10 Review Test



When it comes to understanding a text, knowing what the individual words mean is often not enough. It takes many different reading skills to truly understand what the author is trying to convey. Of course, understanding the literal meaning of a passage is an important first step, but you also need to be able to read between the lines; that is, you should analyze the relationships between ideas, recognize cause and effect, and predict the outcomes of stated events.

At an even more advanced level, you need to be able to recognize the author's persuasive techniques and bias and be able to distinguish between facts and opinions. The reading skills developed in this unit will help you do just that.

1-1 Main Idea

The **main idea** of an article is not always obvious, so when reading, don't forget to ask yourself, "**What point is the author trying to make?**" In addition to the article as a whole having a main idea, each paragraph will also have its own central idea. Once you know the point of each paragraph, you can use that knowledge to make sense of the whole piece.

✧ Poets at the poetry slam would shift rapidly between volumes and tones.
(cc by Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung)



1 Versification With a Voice

001

1 When we think of poetry, we usually picture words organized into lines and stanzas printed on a page. But poetry was not always confined to paper. In fact, for much of human history, poetry was recited aloud in front of large audiences. Poetic devices such as rhythm, repetition, and rhyme are thought to have developed to aid poets commit these verses to memory. As writing emerged and became universal, poetry gradually fell out of this oral tradition. However, in the United States in the 1980s, a form of poetry competition emerged that revitalized interest in poetry performance, and it continues to be hugely popular to this day. It's the poetry slam!



✧ three contestants at the poetry slam (cc by alex lang)

2 The structure of a poetry slam was devised by construction worker and poet Marc Smith from Chicago, who believed that modern poetry had become far too academic and stuffy. Smith wanted a medium that was looser, freer, and that could directly engage an audience. In a poetry slam, members of the audience are chosen by a host to act as judges for the event. After each poet performs, each judge awards a score to that poem. The highest scorers advance to the next round, where they compete again, until eventually a winner is declared.

3 The broad range of voices, styles, and approaches on show at poetry slams makes each event unique and full of surprises. Some poets make radical use of their voice, shifting rapidly between volumes and tones. Others use their entire body to convey the meaning of their poem and employ

» A U.S. Coast Guard Academy cadet participates in a poetry slam. (cc by US Coast Guard Academy)



25 highly choreographed, emphatic movements, and even dance. Topics tend to be political and provocative—race, gender, discrimination—which are perfect for triggering emotional and vocal responses from a live audience (something that is vital in order for the poet to gain a competitive edge over his or her opponents).

4 30 Some critics of the poetry slam cite this emphasis on pleasing the audience as the movement’s great flaw, proclaiming that the competitive “tournament” element has made slam poetry more like a sport than an art form. Others, however, point out that for those frustrated with the stuffy reputation of written poetry and traditional poetry readings, which take place in hushed, reverent rooms, the poetry slam is a place for poets to scream, shout, and sing their verses to the world. What’s more, it allows the world to respond, with heckles or 35 cheers, creating a moment of poetic dialogue between poet and audience that is impossible to replicate with words on a page.

Questions

1. What is the author’s main point in the first paragraph?
 - a. When people think of poetry, they often think of words on a page.
 - b. Poetic devices were originally used to aid in memorizing poems.
 - c. Performing poetry aloud has made a resurgence in recent years.
 - d. For much of human history, poetry was performed aloud to large groups.
2. Which of the following could be a suitable heading for the second paragraph?
 - a. The Origin and Structure of Poetry Slams
 - b. The Problem With Modern Poetry
 - c. The Creator of the Poetry Slam
 - d. How do You Win a Poetry Slam?
3. Which of the following statements can summarize the third paragraph?
 - a. Some slam poets combine reciting their poems with exaggerated movements and dance.
 - b. Politically charged topics are often the subjects of the poems performed at slams.
 - c. Poetry slams are both highly surprising and entertaining for members of the audience.
 - d. Slam poets use a variety of techniques and provocative topics to emotionally engage audiences.
4. What is the author’s conclusion in the final paragraph?
 - a. Despite some criticism, slams provide a unique experience for both poets and audiences.
 - b. Poetry slams are often criticized for making poetry more like a sport than an art form.
 - c. Poetry slams are an excellent venue for poets frustrated with traditional poetry readings.
 - d. Poetry slam audiences aren’t afraid to voice their opinion of a poet’s work.
5. Which of the following could be an alternative title for the passage?
 - a. The History of Poetry in the United States
 - b. The Return of Performance Poetry
 - c. The Poetry of Marc Smith
 - d. Poetry Competitions in the 1980s



2 Hungry Little Hounds

002 **1** Congratulations! You've adopted a new puppy. You are soon going to find out, though, that as well as being super cute, your puppy is also super *hungry*, and as a responsible pet owner it's up to you to provide your puppy with food that contains all the proper nutrition needed to help it grow into a happy, healthy adult dog.

2 However, contrary to what you might think, feeding a puppy a diet supercharged with every nutrient in the book isn't the answer. Many dogs are at risk of health problems that are particular to their breed or size. Thus, they need a very specific balance of nutrients when developing in order to counter those potentially dangerous conditions. Larger breeds, for example, are at high risk of developing skeletal and joint problems, particularly if they get too much calcium and potassium in their diet. Only by buying puppy food designed specifically for your type of dog can you ensure their diet contains the optimal amount of each required nutrient.

3 Something that surprises many first-time puppy owners is just how much food puppies eat. Puppies do most of their growing in the first five months and so need enough calories to support that initial spurt—about double the amount

« Buying food designed especially for your type of dog can ensure their diet contains the optimal amount of each required nutrient.



an adult dog of the same breed would need. However, you will need to adjust this amount as the puppy grows, and this can be done with the help of a feeding chart that comes with most brands of puppy food. And how long do you need to keep this up? A puppy needs to be on this special puppy diet until it reaches about 90% of its expected adult weight, and while small breeds may reach this in around 9 months, large breeds need special feeding until 18 months of age. 25

4 However, though puppies may be comparable to food vacuum cleaners, happy to Hoover up anything in sight, you must be careful not to overfeed them.



✓ puppy

It is actually normal for a healthy 8- to 10-week-old puppy to look fairly thin, and too much body fat is a sign that the dog should cut back; otherwise, it might be at risk of becoming obese. If you are feeding your puppy correctly, the signs should be obvious: plenty of energy, a thick shiny coat, and well-formed, brown feces. These are all indicators that your puppy is getting the diet it needs to thrive. 30 35

Questions

1. Which of the following could serve as an alternative title to this article?
 - a. The Joys of Owning a Pup
 - b. Keeping Your New Dog Entertained
 - c. A Healthy Diet for Puppies
 - d. Danger—These Foods Are Not for Dogs
2. What is the author's main point in the first paragraph?
 - a. Puppies are incredibly cute and make wonderful first-time pets.
 - b. It is a pet owner's responsibility to ensure a new puppy gets properly fed.
 - c. It is better to adopt a puppy than to buy one from a pet store.
 - d. Puppies are very hungry creatures, a fact that surprises many first-time owners.
3. Which of the following is the author's main point in the second paragraph?
 - a. You should buy food designed specifically for your puppy's breed or type.
 - b. Larger dog breeds have a high risk of developing skeletal and joint problems.
 - c. Feeding puppies a nutrient-infused diet isn't the best way to ensure their health.
 - d. Many dogs are at risk of health problems particular to their breed.
4. Which of the following would make a suitable heading for the third paragraph?
 - a. Foods to Avoid
 - b. Which Brand Is Best?
 - c. The Signs of a Healthy Pup
 - d. How Much and for How Long?
5. Which of the following best summarizes the author's main point in final paragraph?
 - a. Signs such as coat quality and fat levels can help confirm a correct diet.
 - b. Overfeeding is actually normal and doesn't need to be avoided.
 - c. Owners shouldn't worry if their puppy appears lean as this is actually normal.
 - d. Puppies eat so much they can be compared to vacuum cleaners.