

# Exercise walk-through

Reading for specific information ■ 1.1

eXercise

## You must be able to

- read the question first and decide exactly what kind of information is wanted
- scan a text for that information without reading every word
- copy or adapt the words from the text so that the answer is precise and complete

## Method — What “specific information” means

- The question names **one** thing: a time, a price, a name, a reason, a number.
- The answer is almost always **in the text**. You are not being asked for an opinion.
- **Answer the question that was asked.** If it asks *when*, give a time. If it asks *why*, your answer must contain a reason.

## Method — The method that works under time pressure

- 1 Read the question and **underline the key word** — *when, how much, which two, why*.
- 2 Decide what the answer will look like: a time? a place? a reason?
- 3 **Scan** the text for that shape of information. Do not read from the beginning.
- 4 Copy the words that answer it. Keep them short.

## Method — Common traps

- **Two marks means two pieces of information.** Check the mark in the bracket before moving on.
- A text often gives a *nearly* right answer earlier and the real one later. Read to the end of the relevant sentence.
- If the question says “**give two**”, write two separate points, not one long sentence.

## Practice 2.1 ■ 1 mark

On which day does the pool close early?

## Solution 2.1

### Worked steps

Monday **B1**.

## Practice 2.2 ■ 1 mark

How much does a sixteen-year-old student with a student card pay?

## Solution 2.2

### Worked steps

\$2.00 **B1**. Accept *“the child price”*.

## Practice 2.3 ■ 2 marks

Give **two** things you must do before attending a beginners' swimming lesson.

## Solution 2.3

### Worked steps

Book at least three days in advance **B1**; attend on a Tuesday or Thursday evening at 7.00 p.m. **B1**. *Accept any two correct requirements.*

## Practice 2.4 ■ 1 mark

Why are there no lessons during the school holidays?

## Solution 2.4

### Worked steps

Because the pool is used for the regional competition **B1**. *The answer must give the reason, not just say “there is a competition” without linking it to the pool.*

## Practice 2.5 ■ 1 mark

What must you bring in order to use a locker?

## Solution 2.5

### Worked steps

Your own padlock **B1**.

## Exam-style 3.1

A question asks: “At what time does the café stop serving hot food?” Which answer would earn the mark?

- A** In the evening.
- B** On the first floor.
- C** At 8.00 p.m.
- D** Before the pool closes.

## Solution 3.1

Method: What “specific information” means

- A In the evening.
- B On the first floor.
- C At 8.00 p.m. 
- D Before the pool closes.

### Worked steps

C. The question asks for a time, so only an answer in the form of a time can be right. A and D are true but not specific; B answers a different question.

## Exam-style 3.2 ■ 2 marks

A student answers question 2.2 with: “Children pay \$2.00.” Explain why this answer would **not** earn the mark.

## Solution 3.2

Method: Common traps

### Worked steps

The question asked about a **sixteen-year-old** student **B1**. The text says children **under sixteen** pay \$2.00, so the student pays the child price only because of the student card, not because of age — the answer given does not show the right reason and does not answer the question asked **B1**.

## Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

Write a question about this text whose answer is “three days”.

## Solution 3.3

Method: Common traps

### Worked steps

Any question whose answer is that number, for example: “How far in advance must a beginners’ lesson be booked?” **B1**