

Reading

This learning tool has the goal of helping users to:

1. Understand the skill
2. Reflect on and identify ways they use the skill
3. Participate in activities to build skills

What is reading?

The Office of Skills for Success defines reading as:

Your ability to find, understand and use information presented through words, symbols and images.



Reflection

There are many tasks that require reading.

Check off the reading tasks that you can confidently complete.

- Read and understand short pieces of text.
For example, read a medicine bottle label to identify the dosage of a medication to give a child.
- Read and understand written instructions.
For example, read to follow a workplace process on how to submit electronic time sheets.
- Read to locate specific information.
For example, finding a company’s phone number on their website.
- Skim long pieces of text to identify the key ideas.
For example, read a request for proposals to understand the main objectives of the call.
- Identify relevant versus irrelevant information in a piece of text.
For example, read a newspaper article about a water advisory to share only the information on how to sterilize water for safe consumption.
- Read and combine information from several sources.
For example, before deciding on a what job to pursue review labour market information from several different sources to gain a fuller perspective.
- Read and understand complex visual information.
For example, read and interpret blueprints, graphs, charts, or schematic drawings.
- Read and understand complex or formal documents.
For example, read mortgage or rental agreement documents.










Look at the tasks you did not check off. We call these your “skills to build”.

How do you use your reading skills at home and/or at work?

Activity One

Band members must dress to work in a variety of weather conditions when harvesting medicinal ingredients.

According to the forecast, what is the temperature expected to be on November 21?

Sat 18/11	Sun 19/11	Mon 20/11	Tue 21/11	Wed 22/11	Thu 23/11	Fri 24/11
Mainly sunny	A few flurries	Sunny	Mainly sunny	Cloudy with showers	Snow	A mix of sun and clouds
						
4°	-1°	2°	8°	3°	-1°	2°

6° C

8° C

3° C

9° C

Activity One: Review

Skills Coach Answer:

8° C

In this question you were asked to locate a specific piece of information: the temperature. Once you know what information you are looking for, this question requires three steps:








- First, you scan the forecast to locate the date: November 21.
- Second, you locate the temperature on that date: 8 degrees Celsius.
- Third, you decide that the answer is 8 degrees Celsius.

The Skills for Success has five levels of difficulty for reading tasks. This is a level 1 task because you had to find a single piece of information. We know that reading includes words, symbols and images. In this example, we had to read all three types.



Activity Two

According to the weather forecast, on which days should band members plan on having raingear?

Sat 18/11	Sun 19/11	Mon 20/11	Tue 21/11	Wed 22/11	Thu 23/11	Fri 24/11
Mainly sunny	A few flurries	Sunny	Mainly sunny	Cloudy with showers	Snow	A mix of sun and clouds
						
4°	-1°	2°	8°	3°	-1°	2°

Saturday and Sunday

Monday

Wednesday

All of the days require raingear

Activity Two: Review

Skills Coach Answer:

Wednesday

Once you know what information you are looking for, this question requires four steps:

1. First, you scan the forecast to identify how rain is represented. This forecast uses icons and words to describe the weather.
2. Second, you infer the icon showing a grey cloud with raindrops and the word “showers” mean that raingear is needed.
3. Third, you look at each day and identify which day or days have the rain icon and/or the word “showers”: Wednesday.
4. Fourth, you look at the list of answers and decide that the correct answer is Wednesday.

This question is more difficult than the previous question. This is a level two reading task because you had to review the forecast multiple times (looking at the predicted weather on each of the seven days) to come to an answer.








You also had to make an inference about what it meant to “need raingear”. An inference is when we come to a conclusion based on the information we have. For example, you could have initially thought that band members should also have raingear on Sunday and Thursday - when the forecast calls for snow. But since “Sunday, Wednesday, Thursday” was not one of the answer options, you could infer that the question was simply about rain, not snow, and therefore the answer was just “Wednesday”.



Activity Three

Different seasons bring different weather patterns.

What factor in the chart below can help band members predict when they might get snow instead of rain?

Sat 18/11	Sun 19/11	Mon 20/11	Tue 21/11	Wed 22/11	Thu 23/11	Fri 24/11
Mainly sunny	A few flurries	Sunny	Mainly sunny	Cloudy with showers	Snow	A mix of sun and clouds
						
4°	-1°	2°	8°	3°	-1°	2°

Location

Air quality

Time

Temperature

Activity Three: Review

Skills Coach Answer:

Temperature

You are looking for something that is different about the days that call for snow.

Once you know what information you are looking for, this question requires four steps:

1. First, you scan the forecast to identify how snow is represented. As we learned in the previous question, this forecast uses icons and words to describe the weather.
2. Second, you infer the icon showing a cloud, sun, and snowflakes with the word “flurries” means snow. Additionally, the icon showing a cloud and snowflakes with the word “snow” also means snow.
3. Third, you look for a common factor between these two days (Sunday and Thursday) that makes them different than the day that predicts rain (Wednesday).
4. Fourth, you notice that Sunday and Thursday are the only two days with predicted temperatures below zero (represented by negative numbers), determine the correct answer is temperature.

This question has several things that make it more complex than the first two questions because you had to use information from multiple parts of the forecast to figure out the answer. You had to infer that “flurries” and “snow” both meant snow and then compare the information about these days to the information about the other days.



Importance of Reading skills

Building reading skills is important for daily activities whether at work or in life to understand and interpret the world around you. For more information on Reading Skills visit the skill components and proficiency descriptors on the [Skills for Success](#) Website. For more information on the Indigenous Skills for Success Journey Refresh Project please visit the [Douglas College](#) Website.

Continue the Journey

How can you continuously improve your reading skills?
