JUNIOR CYCLE ENGLISH · FREE REVISION SHEET

Reading for meaning

↗ Léim

Learning outcomes (2015 specification): R1, R2, R3, OL4. Play the game: **leim.ie/clue-hunt.html**

1. Four ways to read

Skim	for the big idea: title, first line, last line. What's it about? Who's it for?
Scan	for one fact: run your eye down the text looking for one kind of word.
Infer	read between the lines: the text shows a feeling without naming it.
Prove it	back up every point with a short quote.

2. Question words: what to hunt for

When? What time?	days, dates, times: *at dawn, the 14th, May*
How many? How much?	numbers, prices: *over 600, €95*
Who? Where?	names and places (capital letters!)
Why?	because, so, as, since

3. Read between the lines

hands shaking, froze	scared
stomach in knots	nervous
face went red	embarrassed
sighing, nothing to do	bored
grinning, jumped on her	happy
writing to complain	angry

4. Point, quote, explain

Point: Rua is scared.
Quote: "her hands started shaking"
Explain: shaking hands show fear: every rattle of the roof frightens her.

Keep quotes short (3–6 words) and put them in quotation marks. Use your own words for the point.

5. Fact or opinion?

Fact: can be checked. *The tickets cost €12.*
Opinion: what someone thinks. *The tickets are too expensive.*
Opinion clue words: best, worst, boring, amazing, should, too, I think.

6. The best-title test

A good title covers the **whole** text. A wrong one usually fits just one line: it's a detail, not the main idea.

7. Traps

Wrong answers are often real words from the text, from the wrong line (the bus trip was on *Saturday*, but the new date is *the 14th*). Read the whole line around your answer.

Classic mistakes: a point with no quote · a quote with no explanation · copying out a whole paragraph · answering a different question · giving one reason when the question asks for two.

Exam tip: read the questions before the text. Then you know what you're hunting for, and you read with a purpose.

PRACTICE · 26 QUESTIONS

Have a go

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A. Three short texts

INFORMATION

1. Skellig Michael is a rocky island off the coast of Kerry.
2. Monks lived there more than a thousand years ago.
3. Visitors climb over 600 stone steps to reach the top.
4. Boats usually sail there only from May to September, when the sea is calmer.

STORY

1. Aoife jumped on the bus without looking up from her phone.
2. Twenty minutes later, she saw fields where her school should have been.
3. Her face went red, and she pressed the bell twice.
4. The driver laughed and told her the right bus stopped across the road.

ADVERT

1. Splash Camp runs every weekday in July at Youghal beach.
2. Children aged 8 to 14 can try kayaking, surfing and snorkelling.
3. Camp costs €95 a week, and wetsuits are included.
4. Book before 1 June to get 10% off!

1. How many steps? Which line?_____
2. When do boats sail? Which line?_____
3. "The climb is hard work." Which line proves it? Quote it. _____
4. "The sea is rough in winter." Which line proves it? Quote it._____
5. Best title? **a** How to build stone steps **b** Visiting an old monks' island **c** A storm off Kerry **d** Boat trips around Ireland_____
6. How long until she noticed? Which line?_____
7. Bell pressed how often? Which line?_____
8. "Aoife wasn't paying attention." Which line proves it? Quote it._____
9. "Aoife was far from school." Which line proves it? Quote it._____
10. How does Aoife feel? Give the clue._____
11. Best title? **a** A new phone **b** A day on a farm **c** A friendly driver **d** Aoife gets on the wrong bus _____
12. Cost a week? Which line?_____
13. Ages? Which line?_____
14. "You don't need to bring a wetsuit." Which line proves it? Quote it._____
15. "Booking early saves money." Which line proves it? Quote it._____
16. Best title? **a** How to surf **b** A water sports camp for children **c** Buying a wetsuit **d** A trip to the beach _____

B. Fact or opinion? Write F or O.

17. The match starts at 3 p.m.
18. That film was boring.
19. Water boils at 100 degrees Celsius.
20. Cork is in the south of Ireland.
21. The Shannon is the longest river in Ireland.
22. Homework should be banned.
23. Cork is the best county in Ireland.
24. Hurling is the most exciting sport.

C. Exam-style (use the bus text above)

25. What impression do you get of Aoife? Use point, quote, explain.

_____

_____

26. Is the driver kind or unkind? Give a reason from the text.

_____

CHECK YOUR WORK

Answers

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A	1. over 600 (line 3) · 2. May to September (line 4) · 3. line 3: “600 stone steps” · 4. line 4: “calmer” · 5. b (Visiting an old monks' island)
A	6. Twenty minutes (line 2) · 7. twice (line 3) · 8. line 1: “without looking up” · 9. line 2: “fields” · 10. embarrassed: “face went red” (line 3) · 11. d (Aoife gets on the wrong bus)
A	12. €95 (line 3) · 13. 8 to 14 (line 2) · 14. line 3: “wetsuits are included” · 15. line 4: “10% off” · 16. b (A water sports camp for children)
B	17. F · 18. O · 19. F · 20. F · 21. F · 22. O · 23. O · 24. O
C	25. e.g. Aoife is easily distracted: she got on the bus “without looking up from her phone”, so she didn't check where it was going. (Or: she's embarrassed: “her face went red”.) 26. Kind: he “laughed” but he “told her the right bus stopped across the road”, so he helped her.

Worked examples

Skellig: “The sea is rough in winter.”
The text never says “rough” or “winter”. But line 4 says boats only sail “when the sea is calmer” (May to September), so the rest of the year it must be rougher. That's an **inference**.

Bus: best title?
“A new phone” only fits line 1; “A friendly driver” only fits line 4. “Aoife gets on the wrong bus” covers the whole story: that's the **main idea**.

Camp: “€95” or “€10”?
Both are in the text, but “10% off” is a discount, not the price. The cost is in line 3: “€95 a week”. That's a **trap**: always read the whole line.

Fact or opinion?
“Hurling is played with a hurley and a sliotar” can be checked: fact. “Hurling is the most exciting sport” is what someone thinks: opinion.

Got one wrong? Find the line again and read the whole sentence around it. Then play **Clue Hunt** at leim.ie/clue-hunt.html: the "Go back over these" list at the end shows the clue for each mistake.

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