

SECTION

2

SHARING IDEAS AND ORAL INTERPRETATION

ORAL CONVERSATION

Conversation/Communication in Context

INTRODUCTION

This section discusses identification of key ideas in texts and discourse. It always gives information on specific ideas or knowledge to the reader or hearer. The information given may come from all perspectives such as education, industrialisation, mining among others. It may also indicate some cultural values such as respect, tolerance and patience. Identifying key ideas gives you a better understanding of the discourse. It also enhances your critical thinking skills and interpretation abilities. There are types of reading techniques namely skimming and scanning and the application of any of the type enables you to get the right information demanded at any time. Knowledge of the types is therefore essential in our everyday life. The concept of oral interpretation will also be discussed. We shall discuss the skills needed for effective interpretation. Interpretation plays important roles in facilitating communication across language barriers.

At the end of the section, you should be able to:

- Identify key ideas from appropriate discourse. E.g., cultural values (respect, kindness, tolerance and others), education, child trafficking, environment, industrialisation in Ghana, mining, GESI etc.,
- Discuss ideas and relevant opinions from selected discourse. E.g., cultural values (respect, kindness, tolerance and others), education, child trafficking, environment, industrialisation in Ghana, mining, GESI, STEM, etc.
- Discuss skimming using preview, overview and review.
- Discuss scanning using the strategies (e.g., movement of eyes or finger, locating words and phrases)
- Apply skimming and scanning to extract information or ideas from texts
- Discuss oral interpretation focusing on effective listening, encoding and decoding,

Key Ideas

- In text, key ideas are the main messages that are relevant in any discourse.
- Some of the key ideas may centre on cultural values such as respect, kindness, tolerance, patience, etc.
- In any discourse you can share relevant opinions on any discourse appropriately and interpret any discourse in your own understanding.

Identification of Key Ideas in Text

Dear learner, before leaving home for your present school, what are the main points from the conversation you had with your parent/guardian? Share with peers.

The main points you shared with your peers are known to as key ideas. Key ideas are the essential ideas that the author or speaker wants to give to the reader or hearer/listener respectively. The ideas may include the claims, the reasons, conclusions, definitions, classifications, comparisons, evaluations, recommendations, etc. Key ideas can be expressed explicitly or implicitly.

For you to identify the key ideas in discourse there is the need for you to understand the main concepts, arguments, and the points made. Note that the discourse could deal with any topic such as mining, teenage pregnancy, natural disaster, educational issues among others. It must also be pointed out that it could also come in a text form, video or picture or all the forms mentioned.

In summary, my dear learner to identify the key ideas in a discourse which may be written or oral or visual, you may need to answer the following questions

- Find who or what the passage discusses: Does this passage discuss a person, group of people or an entity?
- Ask when the event took place: Does the information contain a reference to time?
- Find where the event took place: Does the text name a place?
- Ask why the event took place: Do you find a reason or explanation for something that happened?
- Ask how the event took place: Does this information indicate a method or a theory?

NB: In a text, key ideas are sometimes italicised, boldened, or underlined. You can also find it in the topic sentence.

What is discourse

Generally, discourse refers to communication, conversation or discussion between individuals or groups either in spoken form or written form. It involves the exchange of ideas, opinions and information. Note that the definition of discourse could be defined also from different angles such as linguistics, social science and philosophy. The general meaning is appropriate for us. Go online to read the other definitions to broaden your knowledge.

Opinion

Look at the picture below



The ideas you shared from the picture are your own ideas which are known as opinions.

Dear learner, an opinion is a view or judgement formed about something which may not be necessarily based on knowledge or fact. It could be expressed in a statement of advice by a professional expert.

As a learner when discussing ideas and opinions in discourse you do the following

1. Start by listening actively
2. Think before you speak
3. Make sure you have the facts
4. Say what you think in a detailed straightforward manner and support with evidence
5. Use 'I' statements.

Activity 2.1

Watch the video:

<https://www.dw.com/en/the-story-behind-ghanas-traditional-fire-festival/video-66383282>

Identify all the key ideas in the video.

What is your opinion after watching the video? Share with your peers

Activity 2.2

Read the text below and answer the questions that follow.

Drug abuse is a growing concern worldwide. It affects not only the individuals but also their loved ones and society as a whole. Drug can alter the brain chemistry leading to physical and psychological dependence. The most commonly abused drugs include opioids, stimulant and depressant. Opioids such as heroin and prescription painkillers can lead to addiction and overdose. Stimulants like cocaine and amphetamines can cause agitation and aggression. Depressants including alcohol and benzodiazepines can slow down brain activities leading to impaired judgement and coordination.

1. Write down any relevant message you got from the passage above and discuss with your friend in class.
2. Explain any moral and cultural value you derive from the passage and share with your friends
3. Compare the answer you had with answers from your friends.

Extended Reading

Canning, P. and Walker, B. (2024). *Discourse Analysis. A practical introduction* (1st ed.) Routledge

References:

Aragbuwa, A. (2021). *Chapter One: Basic concepts in discourse analysis*.

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/356207173_CHAPTER_ONE_BASIC_CONCEPTS_IN_DISCOURSE_ANALYSIS/citations#fullTextFileContent. Retrieved on 5th May 2024.

Hare, V. C. (1984). Main idea identification: instructional explanation in four Basal reader series. *Journal of Reading Behavior* 189-204.

ORAL CONVERSATION

Reading

Key Ideas

- Skimming is going through a text rapidly to get the general information in the text while scanning involves looking for a specific information in a text.
- Scanning is a process of reading in which your eyes quickly run through a piece of text to find a piece of relevant information.
- Scanning and skimming are two different concepts of reading.

Types of Reading

There are types of reading skill or technique namely skimming, scanning, intensive reading and extensive reading. Dear learner, in this lesson you shall learn skimming and scanning techniques of reading.

Skimming

Skimming is a reading technique used to quickly identify the main ideas or key points in a text. It is the action of reading something quickly so as to note only the important points. Basically, skimming is reading rapidly in order to get a general overview of the material read. It is used to find specific facts in texts. It involves glancing over the material, focusing on headings, subheadings, bold text and key phrases to get a general understanding of the content. Skimming is useful when; time is limited, looking for specific information, you want to get an overview before reading in-depth and you are dealing with a large amount of text. Below are the skimming types.

Preview: An opportunity to view something before it is acquired or becomes generally available. Preview is done in an effort to learn about the ideas presented and the structure of their development.

Overview: Used to sample the reading material more thoroughly. A general review or summary of a subject.

Review: The review is done to re-familiarise yourself with the material you have previously read thoroughly or skimmed. A formal assessment of something with the intention of instituting a change if necessary.

Learner, in skimming, you can follow these steps

- Read the title
- Read the headings and sub-headings as well as topic sentences in each paragraph
- Look for important information such as date, names and unusual words.

- Read the conclusion

Activity 2.3

1. Revise what you learnt and explain how you understand the concept of skimming and share your answer with your peers.
- 2a. Skim through the passage below and write down three specific facts found in it .
- 2b. Compare the facts you identified with a friend.

Social vices among Senior High Secondary (SHS) students in Ghana have become a growing concern in recent years. Issues such as substance abuse, truancy, exam malpractice and indiscipline have become rampant in our SHS. Peer pressure, lack of effective guidance and the desire for quick wealth and fame have contributed to the rise of these vices. Students are increasingly engaging in risky behavior such as alcoholism, drug abuse, gambling sexual promiscuity and other illegal activities which have severe consequences for their health, academic performance and future prospects.

The social media proliferation has worsened the problem, as students are exposed to harmful influences and false role models. It is imperative that parents, teachers and policymakers collaborate to address these social vices, promote positive values and behaviors, and ensure that our students in SHS receive a holistic education that prepares them for a bright and respective future.

3. Apply the overview and review skimming types to analyse the passage below.

Education is the key to unlocking the doors of opportunity and prosperity. It is the foundation upon which individuals, communities and nations build their future. Through education, we acquire knowledge, skills and values that enable us to navigate the complexities of life, make informed decisions and contribute meaningfully to society. Education empowers us to break free from the risk of ignorance, poverty and inequality and to reach our full potential. It is the driving force behind innovation, progress and economic growth and is essential for building an equitable and peaceful world. By investing in education, we invest in ourselves, our children and our collective future.

In summary you have learnt skimming and the steps as well as the types of skimming which you can apply. Dear learner, let us examine what is scanning.

Scanning

Scanning is reading rapidly in order to find facts without reading everything. Scanning helps you locate a particular fact while skimming tells you what general information is within a section.

Scanning involves looking for a specific information in a text. It can also be said to be a process of reading in which your eyes quickly run through a piece of text to find a piece of relevant information. In scanning the reader looks for a piece of specific information. An example of scanning is searching for the meaning of a word in a dictionary. Scanning helps the reader to locate particular facts in an entire text quickly. Students often use scanning when solving their reading comprehension questions.

It is important to know the purpose for scanning. You should know what you are searching for, eg title of a book, a website, a reference material, a particular word or phrase and a particular story you want to read etc. You should know how the material is structured either alphabetically, non-alphabetically, chronologically, by category, by titles /headings, by textual sense, by numbers among others.

Scanning helps a learner to read more and to develop love for reading.

When to scan

1. Scan before reading
2. Scan a number of questions to identify the one which you are most comfortable answering
3. When searching for particular information such as date, keywords etc.

The following shows how to do scanning after getting overview of a text and identifying the sections of the text you want to read.

1. Start scanning the text by moving your eyes and fingers quickly over it
2. When you have identified the information, word or the phrase you are searching for, read the information surrounding the word carefully
3. When you identified the information that requires attention, you read it thoroughly slowly.

Activity 2.4

1. In pairs explain the differences between skimming and scanning and compare with other pair in the class.
2. Read this

From the readings identify the strategies in scanning a text and discuss in your group.

- 3
 - a. Scan through the text below and identified the specific facts in it.
 - b. Use four key words/phrase in the text to form sentences.

Health is state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing, not just the absence of disease. Taking care of one's health is crucial for leading a happy and productive life. A healthy life style includes a balanced diet, regular exercise, sufficient sleep and stress management. By making healthy choices, individuals can reduce their risk of chronic diseases, improve their mental well-being and increase their energy levels. Let's prioritise our health and well-being to live life to the fullest.

4. Watch the video below and identify the key information.

Extended Reading

Owu-Ewie, C. (2015). *Language teaching skills: A guide for language teachers*. Shine Prints Company Ltd.

Reading strategies: skimming and scanning. https://www.uidaho.edu/-/media/UIdaho-Responsive/Files/class/special-programs/writing-center/process/reading-strategies_skimming-and-scanning.pdf. Retrieved on May 5th 2024.

References

Barasa, D. and Mudogo, B. (eds.) (2019). *Communication Skills. A handbook for students*. Utafiti Foundation

Butler, D. (2014). *Reading with the right brain: Read faster by reading ideas instead of just words*.

Hancock, H. (2006). *Reading skills for college students*. (7th ed.). Pearson

Langan, J. (2016). *College writing skills*. (8th Ed.). McGraw-Hill

LANGUAGE USAGE

Oral Interpretation and translation

Key Ideas

- Oral interpretation is reframing the meaning of a speech most often orally into another language.
- The original language is the source language and the language in which it is rendered is the target language.
- In oral interpretation you must note the cultural differences and be accurate in giving the meaning of what you are to render in the language orally.

Oral Interpretation

Interpretation is listening to a message in one language and rendering it orally in another language maintaining the original meaning, tone and context. It is the stylistic representation of a creative work or dramatic role. It is the act of explaining, reframing, or otherwise showing your own understanding of something. In interpretation you first have to understand the text or the piece given to you and then explain in your own words. In broader terms it is rendering a spoken or signed message into another spoken or signed language preserving the register and meaning of the source language content.

Dear learner, it must be noted that before you can do any interpretation, you must be well versed in the source and target language. Interpretation can be performed either simultaneously or consecutively between users of different languages.

Dear learner, know that in interpreting you do not embellish or over-exaggerate. State the ideas clearly. In interpreting you need to listen carefully, decode and encode as they serve as the process of communication and interpreting.

What is encoding?

Encoding is the process of translating information into a form that can be transmitted to another person or system. It involves interpreting and understanding a text or message. It involves reading or receiving the text, recognize the words, phrases and sentences, interpret the meaning, context and intent behind the text and understand the cultural, linguistic and semantic nuances.

Decoding

This is the process of creating a text or message. It involves the interpretation and translation of coded information into a comprehensible form. This is how an audience is able to understand and interpret the message. Decoding can also be explained as transforming ideas, thoughts, or messages into spoken text.

You need to know the following to do oral interpretation

1. Listen attentively.
2. You should be fluent in both languages.
3. Keep to the meaning of the text or speech in the original language.
4. Keep pace with the dialogue.

Dear learner, decoding is like sending message and encoding is similar to receiving and understanding the message.

Activity 2.5

1. Explain the basic concepts in oral interpretation to the class.
2. Explain how you understand the concept of interpretation to a classmate
3. In pairs listen carefully to the recorded audio and interpret it.

Extended Reading

Atkinson, J.M (1999) *Interpretation*. London: Routledge

Munday, J. (2001) *Introducing Translation Studies*. London: Routledge

References

Baker, M. ed ((1998). *Encyclopedia of Translation Studies*. Routledge

Blackstil, M. (2007). *Theories of Interpreting*. Arnold

Larson, M.L (1984). *Meaning –Based Translation. A guide to cross –language equivalence*.
University Press of America

Nolan, James (2005). *Interpretation: techniques and exercises*. Cromwell Press Ltd.

Hatim, B & Mason, .I. (1990). *Discourse Translator*. Addison Wesley Longman Inc.

Review Questions

Review Questions for Key Ideas

1. Mention five different key ideas you have derived from the talk on health during your orientation program.
2. Discuss with your friend the five key ideas you have identified in (1) and let her or him share his or her key ideas with you.
3. Study the picture carefully and write down a passage of at least fifty words on it highlighting the key ideas.



Review questions for skimming

1. Apply your skimming knowledge to the passage below and share your ideas with your friend. Give the summary of what the passage is about and share with your class mates.

Farming is an important activity that has attracted attention within the last few years. Agriculture has several other aspects like fishery, livestock and poultry. All these are also important in that they have to do with the production of food items which human beings consume for survival. farming has been regarded as the mainstay of the economy

In many parts of world today, Crops such as cocoa, rubber and cotton have been produced in such commercial quantity that they are sold to other countries. Some countries have a better comparative advantage in producing certain farm crops than other countries. In these other countries, there is the need to spend a lot of money on agriculture, particularly farming. Most farmers use outmoded tools. A

lot of them have no place to store their crops, most of which are always destroyed by insects and pests before harvest time. All these have adverse effects on their productivity.

The government can do a lot to help farmers. Farmers' co-operative societies can be encouraged and loans can be made available to farmers through government institutions, like banks and finance corporations. Farmers can be taught how to build good storage structures for their produce. All these and a lot more can help to improve the condition of farming in these countries.

2. Apply the knowledge of skimming to an article such as a newspaper and give the general idea of the text.

Review question for scanning

1. Apply scanning to a comprehension text given in class and write out all the specific information derived from each paragraph.
2. Describe two scanning techniques and indicate how you can apply it to identification of specific information in a text.

Review Questions for Interpretation

1. Explain the differences between encoding and decoding.
2. Explain three things you will consider when you are interpreting a message from one language to another and why?
3. Listen to the audio in the folder attached and give the oral interpretation to the whole class.

Answers to Review Questions

Suggested answers for identifying key ideas in communication

1. Some key ideas during the health talk include proper personal hygiene, keeping the environment very clean and eating hot or warm food.
2. Some ideas by the friend may include, bathing twice daily, brushing teeth twice in a day, eating in clean bowls, washing hand thoroughly before eating and after the use of washrooms and sweeping your environment.
3. The picture shows students who are sitting in the classroom. The teacher is having a lesson with the class. The students are looking into their books. They are listening attentively. This indicates their obedience to rules given by the teacher.

Suggested Answers for Skimming

- 1
 - the challenge facing farmers such as the storage of food product
 - the roles of government to improve agriculture
 - Fishery, livestock and poultry are aspects of agriculture
 - farming is the mainstay of the economy
2. The article in the newspaper title tells us generally what the article is about and the paragraphs put together aids in arriving at the general idea.

Suggested answer for scanning

1. After scanning through the comprehension passage the questions that are asked gives you the idea on what specific information you should look for in the passage. The learner discusses with the friend whether the specific information required are the same or different.
2. The following shows how to do scanning after getting overview of a text and identifying the sections of the text you want to read
 - Start scanning the text by moving your eyes and fingers quickly over it
 - When you have identified the information, word or the phrase you are searching for, read the information surrounding the word carefully
 - When you identified the information that requires attention, you read it thoroughly slowly

Suggested Answers for Oral interpretation

1. Some differences between encoding and decoding
 - i. Encoding is creating a message while decoding is interpreting a message
 - ii. Encoding is conveying the meaning of a message, decoding on the other hand deals with uncovering the meaning and intent behind a message
 - iii. Encoding involves the sender or author, decoding involves the sender or reader
2. Some things to consider may include:

- i. Render the message accurately without omitting or adding anything.
 - ii. Avoid personal opinions and influences.
 - iii. Use precise and appropriate language and avoid errors and miscommunication
3. Some messages that should be heard from the audio is briefly summarized below.

The audio discusses the Oliver Vormawor issue. He was arrested in February 2022 due to certain comments he made on social media. He has been charged on two accounts. The case was to be heard in court but on arrival at the court the case was adjourned to another date due to the unavailability of the judge.

The cost of dialysis has been increased from 380ghc to 491ghc. Some patients narrated the financial challenge being faced due to the increase. A patient appealed for a decrease. etc.

Acknowledgements



Ghana Education Service (GES)



List of Contributors

Name	Institution
Prof. Kwasi Adomako	UEW, Ajumako
Dr. Yvonne Akweley Amankwaa Ollenu	UEW, Ajumako
Abdul-Rahman Fushieni	UEW, Ajumako
Josephine Yaw Darku	Akome SHTS, Ho