Teaching Reading : Goals and Techniques

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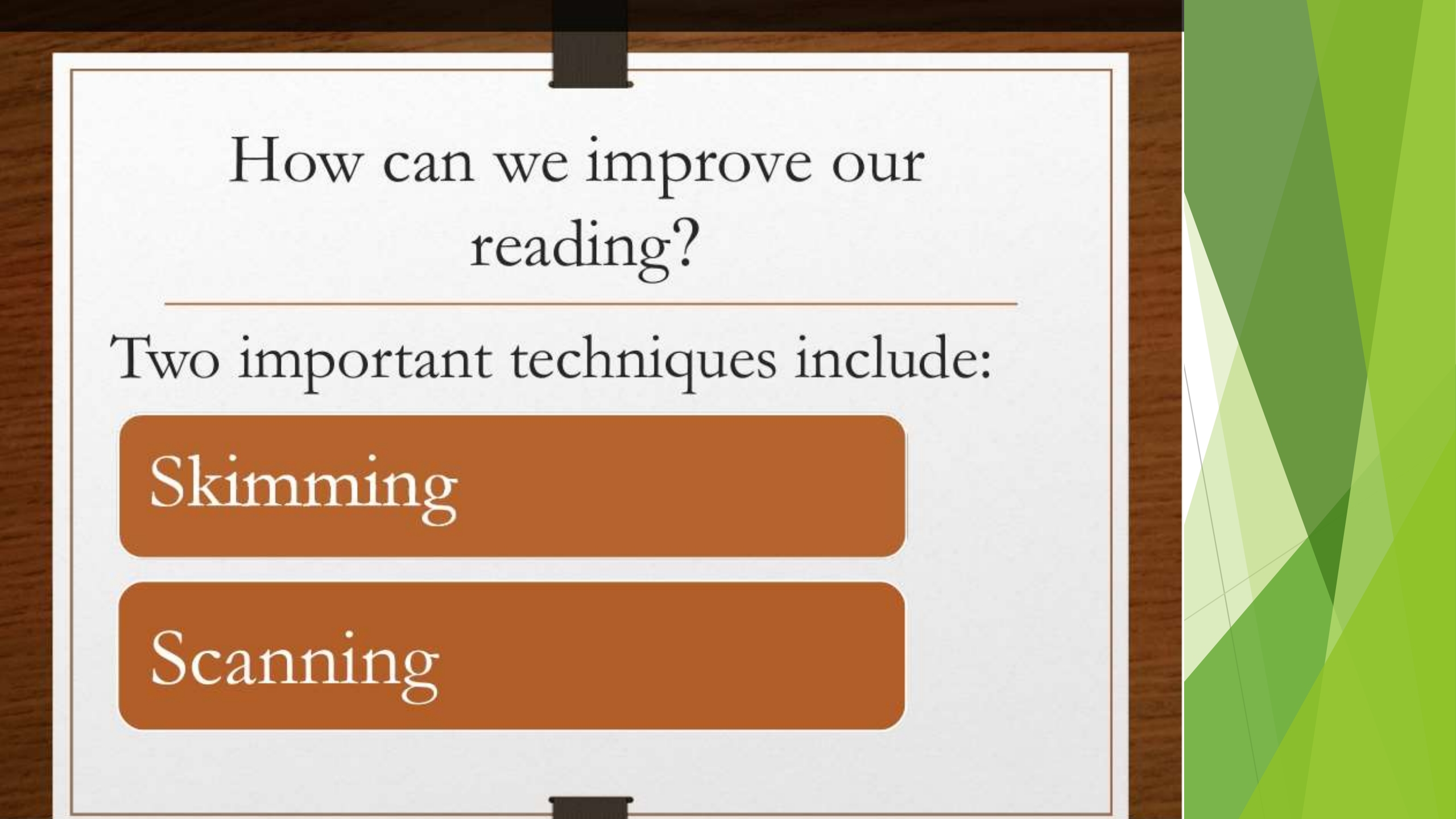
Reading Comprehension

Skimming and Scanning

Reading, what for?

- Reading is an activity with a purpose. A person may read in order to gain information or verify existing knowledge, or in order to critique a writer's ideas or writing style. A person may also read for enjoyment, or to enhance knowledge of the language being read. The purpose for reading also determines the appropriate approach to reading comprehension. The communicative approach to language teaching has given instructors a different understanding of the role of reading in the language classroom and the type of texts that can be used in instruction.

How can we improve our reading?

Two important techniques include:

Skimming

Scanning

SKIMMING

What is Skimming?

"To read quickly to get the general idea of a passage"

When Skimming

Don't read everything but try to skip the text.

Read the *first* and *last* sentences of paragraphs.

Read the *introduction* and the *summary*.

Read a few examples until you understand the concepts they are meant to illustrate.

How to SKIM ?

Read the title.

Read the subtitle or introduction.

Read the first sentences of each paragraph.

Notice any picture, charts, or graphics.

Read the summary or last paragraph if there is one.

Let's practice skimming using the questions below.

Choose a heading that best matches the upcoming paragraph. Remember to underline your key words.

- <u>Parents</u> are to <u>blame</u> for the state of children today.

- A report with many <u>conclusions and worries</u> about the United Kingdom.

- Growing up <u>unhappy generation</u>

- There are so many <u>social problems</u> young people face today.

Let's skim the first and last sentences from the passage.

In recent years, evidence has been collected which suggests that the proportion of British children and teenagers who are unhappy is higher than in many other developed countries around the world. For example, a recently published report set out to measure ' well-being' among young people in nineteen European countries, found that the United Kingdom came bottom. The report was based on statistics and surveys in which young people answered questions on a wide range of subject. The United Kingdom is a relatively unequal country with a relatively high proportion of young people living in households. With less than half the national average income. This seems to have a negative effect on how they feel about themselves.

So what's our answer?

➢Choose the heading that best matches the previous paragraph.

    a. Parents are to blame for the state of children today

    b. A report with many conclusions and worries about the United Kingdom

    c. Growing up unhappy generation

    d. There are so many social problems young people face today

SCANNING

Search for specific information (**key words**)

Particular Name	Number
Telephone Number	Program
Date	The Cosine "32°"

Scanning – Get only what you need.

- Scanning is rapidly running your eyes over the text in order to locate specific details.

Three steps to scanning include:

| search for key words | → | move quickly over the page | → | Less reading and more searching |

Let's practice Scanning using the question below.

- How many European countries are in first report? Remember to underline your key words.

What is your key word?

Number

Now let's scan for the info we selected.

In recent years, evidence has been collected which suggests that the proportion of British children and teenagers who are unhappy is higher than in many other developed countries around the world. For example, a recently published report set out to measure ' well-being' among young people in nineteen European countries, found that the United Kingdom came bottom. The report was based on statistics and surveys in which young people answered questions on a wide range of subject. The United Kingdom is a relatively unequal country with a relatively high proportion of young people living in households. With less than half the national average income. This seems to have a negative effect on how they feel about themselves.

How many European countries are in the first report?
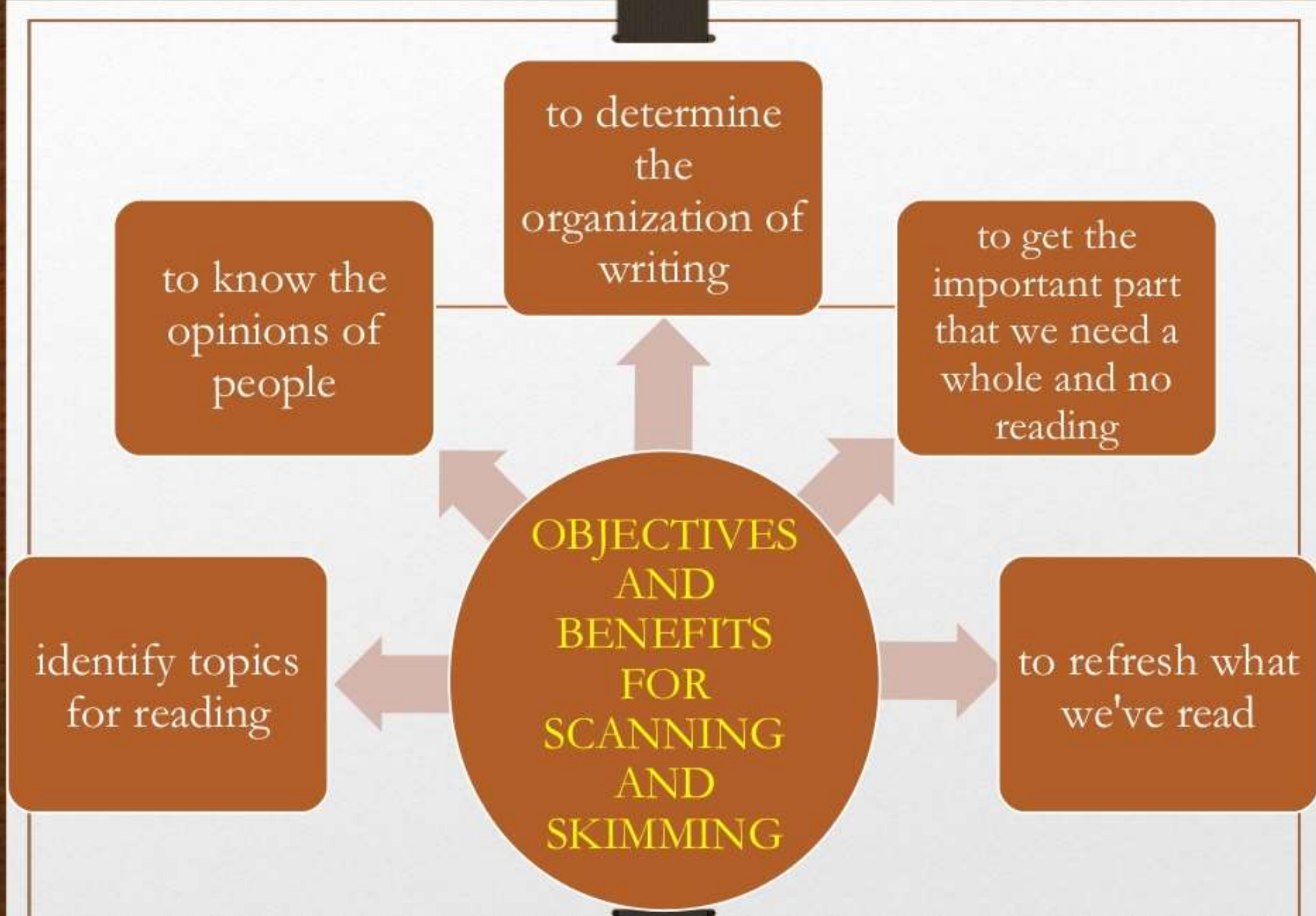
Nineteen

So…………..

Skim

- to understand the **general** idea of a passage

Scan

- for **specific** words, numbers, details or answers.

As for the benefits, among others:

1.	can search for a specific information needed from a text reading or books quickly and efficiently.
2.	can explore the many pages of the book in a short time.
3.	not too much of a waste of time looking for something the chill of the book, which does not support particular actions to search the information.

Conclusion

- Skimming and scanning is used when reading all types of documents.

- We skim to get the idea of what a document is about and typically skim all documents before we actually begin to read.

- As we skim, we…
  - ❖ think about the topic
  - ❖ think about what we already know about the topic
  - ❖ start to guess or anticipate the details we are going to read about.

- We scan for specific information

- We work quickly when we skim and scan.