

# I Active Reading

## I Want To—

- Understand *why* thinking about my reading is important.
- Learn *what* are the key skills for thinking about reading.

To play softball you need many skills. You need to be able to hit the ball. You need to be a fast runner. You need to be able to catch and throw well. Successful players have those skills, but they also think **actively** about the game. That means planning what they want to do, as well as when and how to do it. Knowing *when* and *where* to run is as important as being able to run quickly.

Reading, like softball, calls for many different skills. These include skills such as recognizing vocabulary words or identifying main ideas. But like the good softball player, the successful reader also **thinks actively**:

*Know what you want to do, and plan out how to do it.*



In this unit, you will learn the **SALSA™** method of active reading. Salsa can be a tasty dip for chips, or a style of music and dancing. This **SALSA™**, though, is a kind of memory aid called an **acronym**. It is a word that is made up of the first letters of other words. It helps you remember the five important steps in the reading process that are listed below.

## Unit Glossary

As you work through the lessons in this unit, you will learn new words and terms. Come back to this page and define each **SALSA™** step in your own words.

**Skim Ahead:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Ask Questions:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Look for Information:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Solve Problems:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Assemble Your Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

Most of this passage is nonsense text. Look at the parts in English and then go on to the next page.

## Riding Bikes




Βετωεεν 15 ανδ 20 μιλλιον νεω βιχηηλεσ αρε σολδ ιν τηισ χουντρη εαχη ψεαρ. Δο ψου ηαπε α βιχηηλε? Ιφ ψου δο, ωηερε δο ψου γο? Do you know how other people use their bikes?

### Business or Pleasure?

Τηε *National Bicycling and Walking Study*, δονε βη τηε Υ.Σ. Δεπαρτημεντ οφ Τρανσπορτατιον, λοοκεδ ατ ηρω ωε υσε βιχηηλεσ. Αβουτ 2.8 μιλλιον πεοπλε αγεδ 17 ανδ οπερ ρεγυλαρλη γο το ωορκ, ορ **commute**, βη βικε. Φαρ μορε πεοπλε, αβουτ 27.5 μιλλιον αδυλτσ, ριδε φορ φυν.

Αβουτ 15 μιλλιον ρεγυλαρ βιχηηλιστσ αρε αγεδ 16 ανδ υνδερ.

### Average Distance Ridden Per Year

<b>Adults Who Commute</b>	
<b>Adults Who Ride for Fun</b>	
<b>Riders 16 and Under</b>	

One  stands for about 200 miles.

### Why Bikes?

Βιχηηλεσ χαν βε χονωενιεντ ανδ **cost effective**. Ωε δον τ ηαπε τηε πριχε οφ γασολινε το ωορρη αβουτ, ονε ριδερ σαιδ. Τηεη αλσο απωιδ βιγ τραφφιχ φαμσ.

### Getting in Gear

Μορε πεοπλε βιχηηλε ιν γοοδ ωεατηερ τηαν βαδ ωεατηερ. Ριδινγ ιν ραιν ορ σνωω ισ νοτ φορ επερμονε, βυτ σομε ριδερσ δο ιτ. Σπεχιαλ χλοτηεσ, λικε φαχηετσ, γλοωεσ, ανδ τιγηετσ χαν ηελπ κεεπ ουτ ωινδ ανδ ραιν.

Πεοπλε ριδινγ ιν τραφφιχ μαη ωαντ το υσε α σπεχιαλ μιρρορ. Αν ινεξπενσιωε ηελμετ χαν χοστ ασ λιττλε ασ Ξ10, βυτ ιτ χαν σαωε ψουρ βραιν ανδ ψουρ λιφε.



*The most important equipment*

## Notes

*Titles* are clues about the topic or the main idea.

*Introductory and concluding* sentences may tell you more about the main idea.

*Emphasis in italics or bold* highlights key words.

*Graphs and charts* show a lot of information at once. *Keys* show us how to understand them.

*Headings* tell you the main idea of a certain part of the text.

*Labels or captions* are titles for pictures.

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# Skim Ahead

P.A.P.1 P.A.P.6 P.B.P.2 P.D.P.8 I.A.I.1 I.A.I.5

If you go to a hobby shop, you'll probably look for your favorite toys and models. You might look for airplanes. You might look for boats. You probably won't try to find out how many models there are or where each model came from. At first, you look at the "big picture." This is more important than the little details.

It is the same with reading something new. Don't just start reading. Look around first. **Skim ahead.** When you skim ahead, you look for clues about what you are going to read.

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**Skim** All reading has a purpose. You might read for enjoyment, or to solve a problem, or to find a piece of information. You might read to decide what you think about the subject. Know your purpose before you begin. That will help you pay attention in the right places.

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The *callout boxes* explained *what key information* these features show.

When you looked at "Riding Bikes" on the previous page, you couldn't just start reading. Most of the words were nonsense. The words you *could* read called for attention in different ways. They were given special treatment because they help organize and highlight important information.

There are many other common organizers. For example:

- The **table of contents** shows how and where the material is divided into sections, such as chapters or lessons.
- The **index** helps you locate key topics.
- The **glossary** explains the meanings of important words and concepts.
- **Footnotes** tell you more about part of the text, such as where it came from or what it means.



**Connections** Look at this page without trying to read specific words. What parts call for your attention? Write your answer on the lines below.

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**Skim** When you read on a test or for homework, don't just skim the passage. Skim the questions, too! Note what they ask about so that you know what to look for as you read.

### Example

Look again at "Riding Bikes" on page 5. Look at the title, headings, picture, caption, chart, and any highlighted words. Use what you have learned to *Skim Ahead*, then come back to answer the question below.

What is most likely the main idea of "Riding Bikes"?

- |   |                               |   |  |
|---|-------------------------------|---|--|
| Ⓐ | how people use their bikes    | Ⓒ | how far people ride on bikes                 |
| Ⓑ | where people ride their bikes | Ⓓ | how many bike riders are under the age of 16 |

<b>D I S C U S S</b>	Ⓐ	The last sentence in the first paragraph asks if we know how other people use their bikes. The first heading is "Business or Pleasure?" This is probably the main idea of the article.	Ⓒ	The chart tells us the average distances that people ride. But other clues, like the title and headings, suggest that this is not the main idea. It is a detail about bike riding.
	Ⓑ	None of the things we can skim are about <i>where</i> people ride bikes. They are about things like riding for fun or commuting, and what equipment is important.	Ⓓ	Riders under 16 are mentioned in the chart, but nowhere else. The title and the headings suggest that age is not the main idea.

### Example

Look again at "Riding Bikes" on page 5. Look at the title, headings, picture, caption, chart, and any highlighted words. Use what you have learned to *Skim Ahead*, then come back to answer the question below.

What is the most important thing that the "Average Distance" chart shows?

- |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ⓐ | Commuters are people who ride their bicycles to work. | Ⓒ | Commuters go much farther than other kinds of riders. |
| Ⓑ | Many people do not use bikes at all.                  | Ⓓ | Bicyclists should always use helmets.                 |

<b>D I S C U S S</b>	Ⓐ	This may be true. But there is nothing in the chart that defines what "commuter" means.	Ⓒ	The chart shows this very clearly, using the number of bicycles to show distance.
	Ⓑ	There is no way to conclude this from the information in the chart.	Ⓓ	Based on the caption to the helmet picture, this may be true. But it is not what the chart is about.