



Unit 4: Structure of texts

Structure of texts, paragraphs and their arrangement, study skills

Structure of texts

The structure of a text is the way how the author organizes the information in the text – text organization.

It helps readers understand texts, look for important topics and ideas, the text structure also helps readers summarize the text – it can guide their summarizing.

<http://thisreadingmama.com/teaching-text-structure-to-readers/>

1) Look at the structures of two texts (A and B). Respond to the tasks.

A) Which of them is more convenient to you if you think of the structure or organization of the text? How did authors organize the information?

B) Look at the poster where you can see most frequent text structures used in not only academic texts.

Poster Informational Text Structures

2) Look at the poster, identify the differences in five text structures.

Remember the basic ways of reading (Unit 2)?

Skimming and **scanning** are two specific reading techniques.

Skimming is reading very quickly to get the general idea from a text (a book, an article, a chapter, or a paragraph).

Scanning is reading quickly to find a piece of information – a specific name, date, fact, or statistic without reading the entire article.

3) Text A

A) Skim the text A and try to express the key information of the text.

What is it about? What should you remember? If you do not understand some words or sentences what can help you?

B) Scan the text A and find the words below and underline them.
The first word has been underlined for you.

**word reversals – presence - reading disability – poverty - by sight
- attempts to identify – deficit – comprehending**

Do you understand them, do you know Czech equivalents?
Discuss them with other students. Read the parts of
statements where you found the words.

C) Read sentences 1 – 5 and complete them with appropriate
information from the text A.

1. Most people think that dyslexia is _____ .
2. In the early stages of learning, writing and reading letters and words backwards are _____ .
3. The origin of dyslexia is _____ .
4. Two difficulties are shown by children with dyslexia
_____ .
5. Readers with dyslexia have problems with word recognition because
_____ .

4) Text B

1 Choose one part of the text and find out what kind of a text structure
(see above) is used. What words can help you decide?

2 Read your part again and find the key words in the part. After that use
those words in a short summary (one sentence is possible).