

Reading for Meaning Exercises

Marking a Text

Geography

Many learners find it useful to highlight the main points of a chapter, both to aid retention and, later, revision. Some learners find that they have difficulty understanding or remembering the content of the text unless they can annotate, underline, highlight or circle the important parts or the main points. Marking text can help students to analyse, understand and remember content.

The following exercise uses this method of marking texts. Students are asked to mark the main points of the passage. It can be useful to give the students a photocopy of the text for this exercise.

Colour can be used for good visual effect when marking text. Two colours could be used for comparing and contrasting. For example, when reading about the industrial revolution in history the advantages could be marked in red and the disadvantages in green, or in geography the features of erosion could be marked in yellow and the features of deposition could be marked in purple.

Many people in the USA are the descendants of European immigrants who left their home countries to settle there in the 19th century. The immigrants were escaping poverty and other problems, such as famine and drought, in their countries. They travelled by ship to New York, where many stayed to set up new homes.

The USA is the richest country in the world. It exports machinery, cars and trucks, aircraft, iron and steel, chemicals and cereals. They are exported all over the world.

1. Scan this piece of text and find these keywords. Circle each keyword
drought **poverty** **famine**
2. Underline in red the sentence that tells you why the immigrants came to the USA.
3. Underline in blue the sentence that tells you where the immigrants came from.
4. Underline in black the sentence that tells you how the immigrants came to the USA.