

3.3 Vocabulary and skills development

GOALS ■ Skim a text using topic sentences ■ Use noun suffixes

Reading & Speaking **skimming a text using topic sentences**

1a Read the idioms and discuss the questions with a partner.

have a heart of gold **a golden opportunity**
be as good as gold

- 1 What do you think the idioms mean?
- 2 Do you have any similar idioms in your language?

b Read the first paragraph of the article on the right and compare it with your ideas.

2 Read the information in the Unlock the code box about using topic sentences to help you read quickly.



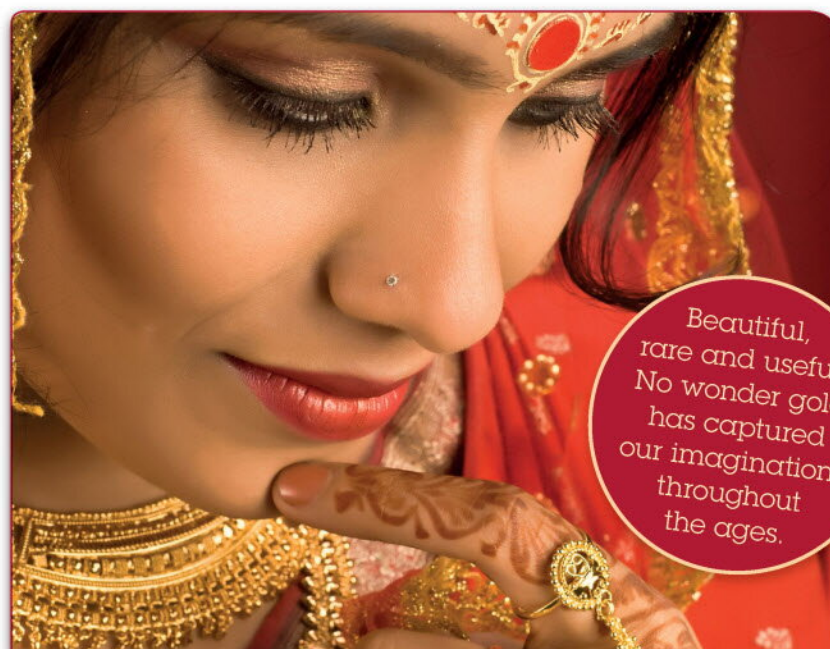
UNLOCK THE CODE

skimming a text using topic sentences

Skimming is a technique for reading a text quickly to absorb the main ideas. One way to do this is by reading the topic sentences in each paragraph.

- The topic sentence is the sentence which carries the main message of a paragraph, and it is usually (but not always) the first sentence of each paragraph (see highlighted sentence in the article). Understanding the topic sentence in each paragraph can help you to get an overview of what is in the text, which can make it easier to quickly skim read.
- The topic sentence is often supported by a sentence (or sentences) with further related information, or reasons.
- The topic sentence and/or the supporting sentence(s) may also be backed up by examples.

3 Now read the whole article and underline the topic sentence in each paragraph.



Beautiful, rare and useful. No wonder gold has captured our imaginations throughout the ages.

- 1 **From ancient times, gold has been of great importance to mankind.** Many languages reflect this, using gold as a way of describing anything which is beautiful or valuable. In English, kind people 'have a heart of gold', particularly well-behaved children are 'as good as gold' and a 'golden opportunity' is one not to be missed.
- 2 The Ancient Greeks believed that gold was a combination of water and sunshine due to its brightness, and the Inca Kingdom called it the 'tears of the sun'. Gold may not have come from the sun, but it probably did come from another planet. The fact that it is always found on or near the surface of the Earth is possible evidence that it may have been brought here by asteroids.
- 3 Although it is found on every continent, gold is extremely rare. It is estimated that if all the gold in the world was put together, it would make a block of only twenty square metres. Its rarity adds to its value.
- 4 Gold is particularly treasured in the Middle East, China and India, where more than three billion people prefer to keep their wealth in gold, rather than as money in the bank. As well as being an investment, gold jewellery also has an important cultural role. Half the gold that Indians buy each year is bought for a wedding or other celebration.
- 5 Gold also has a multitude of less traditional uses in industry. It is not affected by air or water, making it an excellent protective coating for machinery. It is also well suited for conducting heat or electricity.



4 Use the topic sentences you have identified to help you match paragraph headings a–f to paragraphs 1–5 in the article in exercise 3. There is one heading you do not need.

- a Not from this world?
- b How gold is used in modern manufacturing
- c Gold as a symbol or metaphor
- d The importance of gold in certain countries
- e Some medical uses for gold
- f There is less gold than you might think

5a Make a list of 4–5 items in your house that you would choose to try and save in an emergency (not including people or pets).

- b Compare your list with a partner. Are any of the items similar?
- c Are your items mainly things with a monetary value or sentimental value?

Vocabulary & Speaking noun suffixes

6a Read the information in the Vocabulary focus box about noun suffixes.

VOCABULARY FOCUS noun suffixes

- Certain suffixes tell you that the word is a noun. Recognizing these suffixes can help you understand a word, as well as increase your vocabulary.
- Some of the most common noun suffixes are:

-ence (<i>reference</i>)	-ance (<i>appearance</i>)
-ery (<i>bravery</i>)	-ity (<i>reality</i>)
-tion (<i>intention</i>)	-dom (<i>wisdom</i>)
-ment (<i>measurement</i>)	
- Sometimes adding a suffix causes small changes in spelling, for example:

enter → entrance	converse → conversation
curious → curiosity	vary → variation
scarce → scarcity	jewel → jewellery



b Work with a partner. Find at least one noun in the article in exercise 3 with each of the following suffixes.

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1 -ance _____ | 5 -ence _____ |
| 2 -ity _____ | 6 -ery _____ |
| 3 -ment _____ | 7 -dom _____ |
| 4 -tion _____ | |

7a Complete the sentences using the correct form of the words in brackets.

- 1 Winning a gold medal is quite an _____ (achieve).
- 2 All her gold jewellery was taken in the _____ (rob).
- 3 The gold necklace was part of her _____ (inherit).
- 4 The Incas were an ancient _____ (civilize).
- 5 Thank you for your _____ (generous).
- 6 The whole village received an _____ (invite) to the wedding.
- 7 Having enough money gives you the _____ (free) to do what you want.
- 8 Gold has a special _____ (signify) in some countries.
- 9 I have a _____ (prefer) for silver jewellery, rather than gold.
- 10 I get a lot of _____ (enjoy) from shopping.

b 3.6))) Listen and check your answers.

PRONUNCIATION word stress – nouns

8a Complete the table with the new words in exercise 7a.

● ●	
● ● ●	
● ● ●	<i>achievement</i>
● ● ● ●	
● ● ● ●	
● ● ● ● ●	
● ● ● ● ●	

b 3.7))) Listen and check your answers.

c We often stress the syllable before a suffix. With a partner, check the words in exercise 8a and identify which words do *not* follow this pattern.

9 **TASK** Work with a partner. Student A, turn to page 127. Student B, turn to page 133. Take it in turns to give each other a word. For one point, turn it into a noun. For two points, put the noun into a sentence.