

23. Houses for sale

Aim

The children will read some advertisements and locate information confidently and efficiently by skimming to gain the overall sense of the text, and then scanning to find specific information. They will also discuss when it is appropriate to use these techniques.

Activities

Give the children sheet **23a** and ask them to quickly read the paragraph about the first property once. Then ask them to turn the sheet over and write down on the back as much of it as they can remember. Do the same with the other two paragraphs.

Discuss their answers, letting them check if they missed anything. Stress that this is 'skimming' and that it is likely that they will forget things. Read the description of skimming at the top of the sheet together.

Give out sheet **23b** and explain that now the children will be 'scanning'. Ask the more able pupils to complete the sheet. Read over everything with the less able children until they are confident and let them fill in the answers.

Plenary

Working as a class, ask for the children's answers to sheet **23b** and discuss different options. Ask the children if they can remember the difference between skimming and scanning. Why is skimming useful when you are looking at houses for sale? Why would it be important to read the text more closely if you were interested in one of the houses? Can the children think of other times when you would need to skim or scan text?

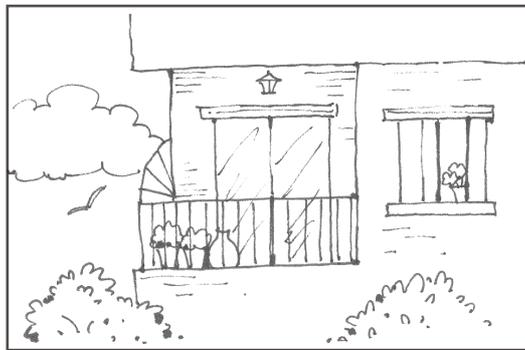
Houses for sale

Skimming is reading quickly, trying to pick up information without reading every single word.

Below are three descriptions of different properties that are for sale. Skim the information, then turn the sheet over and write down as much as you can remember.

NEW PROPERTIES ADDED EVERY WEEK

Gloucester Street: Fourth floor flat (no lift), two bedrooms, bathroom with shower, kitchen, lounge, small dining room, balcony, good view.



Wilson Avenue: Semi-detached bungalow, lounge, dining room, three bedrooms, loft room, bathroom, shower room, garage, large garden, quiet street, close to schools.



Parkington Crescent: Ground floor flat, quiet area, living room, one bedroom, bathroom with shower, small, easily kept garden, close to shops and public transport.



Houses for sale

Name:

Now answer these questions. You will need to refer to the text on sheet **23a** again, this time reading it more slowly and carefully to find the answers. This is called **scanning**.

1. Which house would be the most suitable for a family with young children?
Why?

2. Which would be the most suitable for an elderly person? Why?

3. Which would be the most suitable for a fit young couple? Why?

4. Which house might not be suitable for a person living alone? Why?

