

The SCAN strategy

Metacognitive skill targeted: critical thinking, self-questioning

Age group: 8+

Activity Description

The **SCAN strategy** is a metacognitive tool.

It helps you revise your writing more effectively.

It guides you through **self-questioning** so you can reflect deeply on your own work and make improvements.

SCAN stands for:

1. **S – Sense:**

Does it make sense? Will the reader understand it?

2. **C – Connection:**

Stay on topic. Is it connected to my main idea?

3. **A – Add:**

Can I add more? Can you give more details or an example?

4. **N – Note errors:**

Can I find any mistakes? Look for spelling, punctuation, grammar, or word choice errors.

Useful Tips

Write your revised text on a new sheet of paper.

Compare your text **before** and **after** the SCAN check to see how you have improved it.

The SCAN strategy

Choose a paragraph you wrote recently. Read it slowly, then answer these 4 questions. You can either write directly on this sheet or answer them in your notebook.



1. **S – Sense:**

Does my paragraph make sense?

☐ Yes

☐ A little confusing — I will fix:



2. **C – Connection:**

Does this match what I wanted to say or explain?

☐ Yes

☐ Not really — I will change:



3. **A – Add:**

Can I add more detail, a reason, or an example?

☐ Yes — I will add:

☐ No, I think it's complete.



4. **N – Note errors:**

Can I spot any spelling or punctuation mistakes?

☐ Yes — I found and fixed:

☐ No mistakes I can see!