



Answer Key: Getting to know Active Reading

Before you use a new program with your students, it is essential that you know both the contents and the way the program works. Try this short exercise which has been designed to help teachers get to know Active Reading.

Active Reading comes at six levels from Elementary to Advanced. First, find the Pre-Intermediate level, and fill the gaps below. Then work through some units of Active Reading to answer the eleven questions beneath.

Unit name	Reading skill
1 Writing to a pen friend/pen pal	Guessing words you don't know
2 Cooking chicken	Scanning for specific information
3 The doctor says...	Using headings to help reading
4 Choosing a holiday/vacation	Understanding fact and opinion
5 Travel advice	Reading aloud
6 Struck by lightning	Understanding suffixes
7 Health matters: food	Signpost words: and, but, so
8 Health matters: yoga	Choosing which words to learn
9 Rent-a-pet	Matching nouns and pronouns
10 Please help me!	Functional language: giving advice

1. How can you get your score for an exercise after completing it?

Click on the Marking/Scoring button at the top of the screen.

2. What happens to the Marking/Scoring button after you have completed an exercise and seen the correct answers (in most exercises)?

It changes to a feedback button. You can click on this to see feedback for the answers you got wrong or missed. Sometimes feedback is for the whole exercise.

3. In Elementary, Finding a Job, Vocabulary: building words, how can you hear the questions?

Complete the exercise. Click on Marking/Scoring and you will see audio icons appear next to each question. Click on these. Sometimes the after-marking audio will play automatically. There is a streaming bar at the top of the screen on the right to show the audio being downloaded (in the online version).





4. Which details are recorded on the Progress, Your scores screen?

The unit name, the exercise name, the score, the date the exercise was done and the time spent on the exercise.

5. Some exercises have a choice of two different marking styles. What are they? How are they different?

'As I work' – the learner sees whether each answer is correct as soon as they write it and move to the next question. 'At the end' – the learner completes all the questions and then clicks the Marking/Scoring button.

6. For what purposes can students use the Scratch Pad? List at least two.

As the Scratch Pad is saved for them automatically, they can make notes. They can copy information from websites. They can do extended writing activities which they can print.

7. How do you switch from one level of Active Reading to another?

From the Unit screen (eg Elementary, Pre-Advanced), click the Restart button at the top of the screen. Then click on the level you want.

8. What is the Clarity Recorder? How do you know if it is running correctly on your computer?

The Clarity Recorder is an audio recorder that you can download from the Clarity website. It enables students to record their voices and listen to themselves. You know it is running correctly if you see audio controls on the right hand panel on the screen. If you see a microphone symbol, you need to start up the Clarity Recorder from your Desktop or the Start menu.

9. In Intermediate, We're losing the pilot..., Vocabulary: flying, how do you get a hint for each question?

Ctrl click on a gap.

10. Watch one of the videos. How can you read what the speaker is saying?

Click on the Read button on the bottom right hand corner of the video screen.

11. Make brief notes explaining some different ways that you can use Active Reading with your students.

Here are just three general ideas:

1. Use Active Reading in class in the computer lab. Doing a few exercises on the computer makes a refreshing change of focus in a lesson.
2. Use Active Reading as a supplementary self access resource for gifted and talented students, or as a remedial resource for less able students.
3. Set activities from Active Reading for homework online, and print a report from Results Manager.

You will have your own ideas about how Active Reading relates to the needs of your own students.

