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English for Life

B1+ Intermediate

# Reading



Anna Osborn



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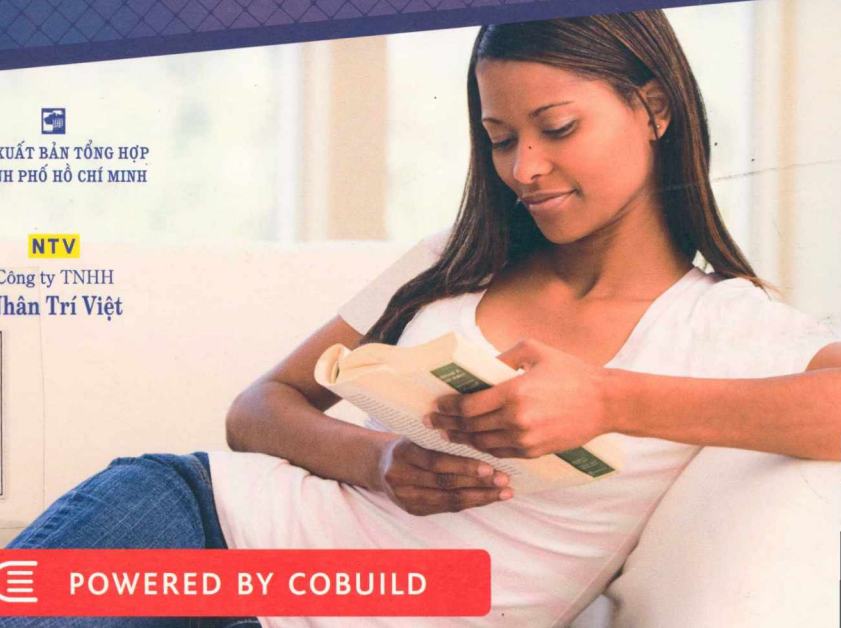
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**English for Life Reading**

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### **About the author**

Specializing in literature and following a degree in Modern Languages at Oxford, **Anna Osborn** worked in publishing as a Managing Editor during the 1990s. She retrained to become an English language teacher in 2000 and has since worked across Europe, teaching students of all levels and ages. In addition, she has written a wide variety of English language learning materials including business and general study books, online self-study courses, and classroom workshops. Her most recent book was *English for Business: Speaking* (Collins, 2011).

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*Collins English for Life: Reading* will help you to improve how you read.

*Reading* helps you to develop your reading skills by providing practice in four key areas of reading:

- Reading quickly for general idea
- Reading quickly for specific information
- Reading carefully for general understanding
- Reading carefully for detail

You can use *Reading*

- as a self-study course
- as supplementary material on a general English course

This book includes a wide variety of text types including status updates, text messages, newspaper articles, and extracts from novels. Many of the reading texts are authentic, that is, they have been taken from real sources. You will find a list of the sources we have used at the back of the book.

*Reading* consists of 20 units, divided into four sections:

- Section 1: Reading online
- Section 2: Reading for information
- Section 3: The media
- Section 4: Reading for pleasure

## Unit structure

For ease of use, each unit follows a similar structure. It is recommended that you follow the order of exercises when working through a unit.

- A **Before you start** section contains exercises that give you the opportunity to familiarise yourself with the content of the text before you start looking at the text in detail.
- You will then read a text that is typical of its type.
- Exercises in the **Understanding** section help you to check your basic comprehension of the text.
- In **Practising your reading skills**, you practise one or more types of reading skills, which are most relevant to the type of text.
- **Language focus** exercises highlight and help you to practise useful language from the text.



Skim

When you see this icon next to an exercise, it means the exercise requires you to read through the text quickly.



Scan

When you see this icon next to an exercise, it means the exercise requires you to look through the material quickly in order to find important or interesting information.



Detail

This icon means you will have to read the text very carefully to find specific information.

## Other features

- **Language note** boxes present additional information about the language presented in the unit.
- **Active Reading** boxes contain useful information and tips to improve your reading skills.

At the back of the book, you will find the following useful sections. It is a good idea to familiarise yourself with their contents before you start using the book.

- Appendix 1 *How should I read?* explains the different kinds of reading skills you need to develop.
- Appendix 2 *Practical reading study tips* provides useful techniques to use when reading, for example, taking notes, keeping a vocabulary notebook, and following the SQ3R method.
- Appendix 3 *Improving your reading speed* will help you to read more quickly without compromising on understanding.
- Appendix 4 *Understanding shortened forms* is an introduction to new forms of English that have developed through changes in our use of media, through texting and use of social media such as Twitter and social networking sites.
- Appendix 5 *Understanding punctuation* is a brief guide to why certain forms of punctuation are used in English.
- Appendix 6 *Signposting language* presents the language that helps you to find your way around the text, for example, when an important point is being presented or to follow the order of an argument.
- A mini-dictionary providing definitions and example phrases and sentences for some of the most difficult words in the units.
- A comprehensive answer key.

## Using Reading

There are three ways to use this book:

- 1 Working through from Unit 1 to Unit 20.
- 2 Choosing from the contents page the units that are most useful or interesting to you.
- 3 Focussing on a particular reading approach and using the icons to guide you to the correct exercises.

Keep a vocabulary notebook and, after completing each unit, add any new words from the text to your book. You can use the mini-dictionary at the back to help you.

**Reading Appendix 1 on pages 88–90 before you start using the book will introduce you to the methods used in the book and how you can work on improving these skills while working through the exercises.**

## Language level

*Reading* has been written to help learners at B1 level and above (Intermediate to Advanced).

## Other titles

Also available in the *Collins English for Life* series: *Speaking*, *Listening*, and *Writing*



## BEFORE YOU START

Allow yourself 10 seconds to skim over the two home pages below. How would you describe these two businesses?

- 1 A cafe and a bank
- 2 A furniture shop and a bank
- 3 A furniture shop and a student support website

ECLIPSE

HOME STORE FINDER HELP CONTACT US LOG IN/REGISTER

FURNITURE VILLAGE

(0) 1234 567890

My basket: 0 items  
Checkout


Living room
Dining room
Kitchen
Bedroom
Bathroom
Special offers

Living room

Stylish living room ideas

How to ...

Series



PRICE SLASH

Half-price sofas available online only  
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Shop online at Eclipse Furniture Village for all your home furnishing needs.

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- Check availability in your local store or order online.
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Low risk savings with guaranteed returns



## HOW MUCH CAN I BORROW?

Use our loan calculator to work it out



About us  
Interest rates

Site map  
Fraud and privacy

Ways to bank with us  
Partners with us

## Understanding

- 1** Now, read the webpages properly to check your answer.
- 2** Choose the best description of each business, based on the information given in their websites.
  - 1 Eclipse Furniture Village ...
    - a sells home furnishings and garden equipment.
    - b sells furniture for all rooms of the house.
    - c sells home electrical appliances at competitive prices.
  - 2 Andrew Nicholas ...
    - a is a bank that offers a full range of personal and business banking services.
    - b is a bank that offers only student accounts and fixed-term deposits.
    - c is an insurance company that also offers some banking services.