



Strategies for success in IELTS reading

Action Research by
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What strategies are used by students doing the IELTS reading paper?



- **Why did we want to know about strategies?**
- **What did we decide to do?**
- **How did we do it?**

- **What did we learn about IELTS reading strategies?**
- **What problems did we encounter?**



Why did we want to know about strategies?

- Our experiences
- Skimming and Scanning
- What students *actually* do



Our experiences

- *Student comments*
- *Teacher comments*



Skimming and Scanning

- *Over-emphasis*

- *Usefulness*

Swan and Walter (2008)

Kerr (2009)



What students *actually* do

- *Known strategies*
- *Unknown strategies*



What did we decide to do?

- Give students IELTS reading
- Observe their strategies



Most common question types

1. YNNG/TFNG (30%)
2. Summary Completion (13%)
3. Heading Choice (11%)
4. Multiple Choice (10%)



How do you observe a reading strategy?



Think Aloud Protocol

I read the questions first





Think Aloud Protocol

- 1. Explanation**
- 2. Process (student/observer)**
- 3. Action Research Cycles**



What did we learn from Cycle 1?

1. Standardisation

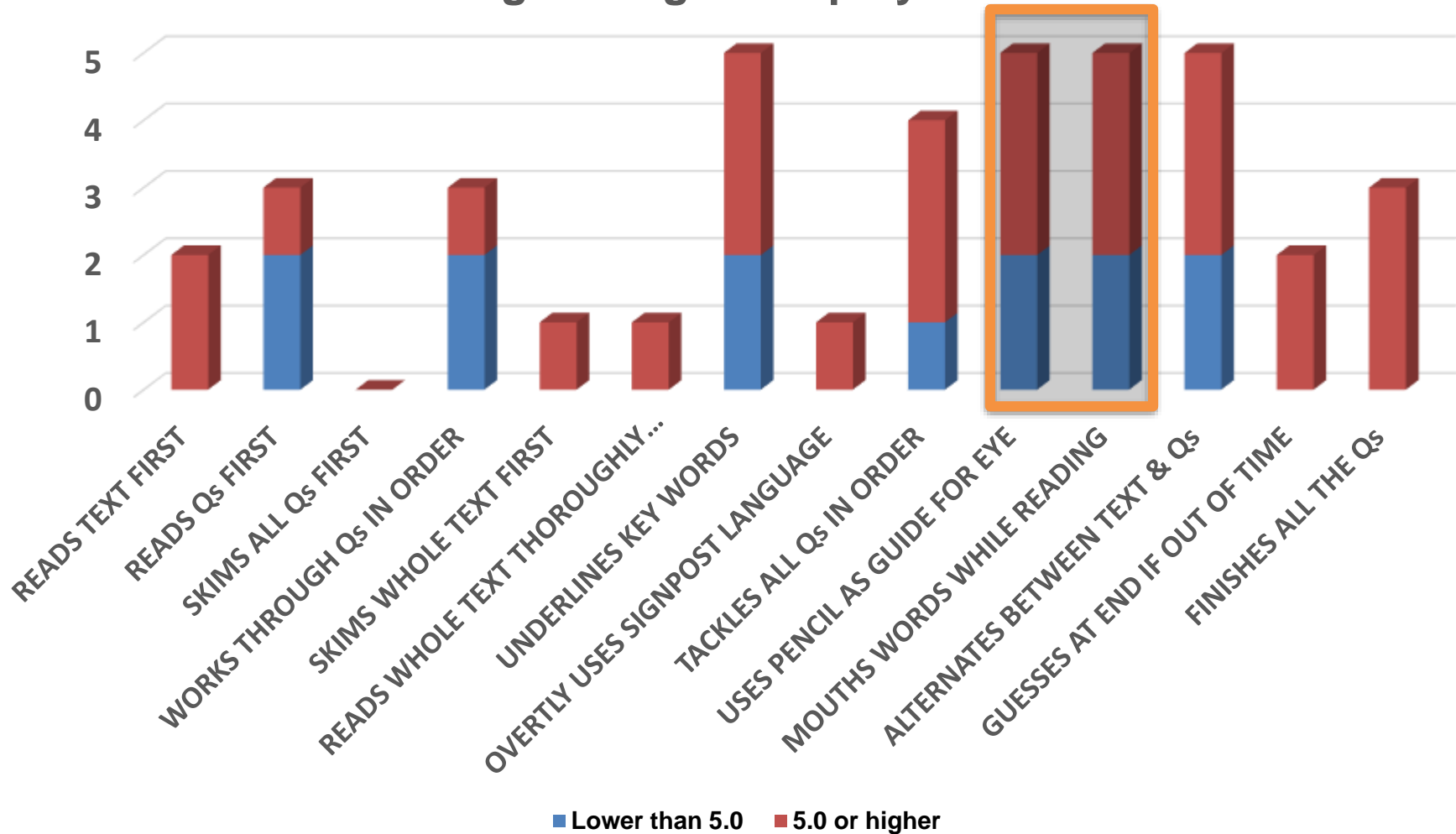


What did we learn from Cycle 2?

1. The need for training
2. Some interesting observations...



IELTS reading strategies employed





What problems did we encounter?

Think Aloud – imperfect method

IELTS text length



But...

Positive experience

Increased interest for us and colleagues

Formed a springboard for future in-school research



Thank you for listening.

Any questions?

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