

English for Study Skills

Pre-Sessional English

Lesson objectives

Part 1: academic English

Part 2: introduction to idioms

academic English

Introduction

- What is your experience with academic English?
- Have you found it challenging?

Example Vocabulary

- academic report
- academic presentation
- introduction
- conclusion
- discuss
- research
- analysis
- cite

Definitions

- **Academic Report:** A written document that summarizes research or ideas on a particular topic.
- **Academic Presentation:** A way of sharing information about research or a topic in person, usually with the help of a PowerPoint or other visual aids.
- **Introduction:** The beginning of a report or paper that provides some background information and sets the stage for the rest of the writing.
- **Conclusion:** The end of a report or paper that summarizes the main points and provides a final thought or conclusion.

Definitions

- **Discuss:** To talk about a topic or idea in a detailed and thoughtful way, considering different perspectives and ideas.
- **Cite:** To give credit to the sources of information used in a report or paper, typically by including the author's name and publication information.
- **Research:** The process of investigating a topic or idea, often involving reading and analyzing existing information or collecting new data.
- **Analysis:** The process of examining and interpreting information, often to identify patterns or relationships and draw conclusions.

Definitions

- **Investigate** - gather and examine the facts
- **examining** - to inspect, to look closely at
- **Interpret** - explain the meaning of
- **draw conclusions** - to form an opinion or come to a conclusion based on facts
- **Conclusion** - to come to the end / to make a decision

Fill in the blanks

Fill in the blanks:

- The _____ is the first part of an academic paper or report where you introduce the topic.
- The _____ is the last part of an academic paper or report where you summarize your findings.
- When you _____ something, you provide a detailed analysis or explanation of a given topic or question.
- _____ is the process of investigating a topic in order to discover new knowledge or understanding.
- When you _____ something, you break it down and examine it in detail.

analyse, cite, conclusion, discuss, introduction,
presentation, report, research

Fill in the blanks:

- I'm going to _____ the topic of climate change in my academic report.
- The _____ is where you explain the purpose and scope of your research.
- In my academic paper, I will _____ my sources to show where I found my information.
- The _____ of my research showed that there is a correlation between diet and health.
- I will _____ the topic in my _____.

analyse, cite, conclusion, discuss, introduction,
presentation, report, research

Answer the questions

Answer the questions:

- What is the difference between an introduction and a conclusion in an academic paper?
- Can you explain an example of plagiarism in academic writing?
- How do you analyse a research topic to discover new knowledge?
- Can you explain how you cite a source?
- When an exam question asks you 'to discuss', what does this mean?

analysis, cite, conclusion, discuss, introduction,
presentation, report, research



What tense?

Past or present

What tense should you use when writing an academic report or paper?

- The most commonly used tense is the present tense.
- Academic writing is typically focused on describing research or ideas that are still relevant and ongoing.
- The present tense is used to describe facts, general details, and conclusions that have been reached through research.

What tense should you use when writing an academic report or paper?

- Sometimes the past tense or future tense may be more appropriate.
- For example,
 - if you are describing a study that has already been completed, you would typically use the past tense.
 - If you are discussing future research or potential outcomes, you may use the future tense.

What tense should you use when writing an academic report or paper?

- It is important to be consistent
- use the appropriate tense for each situation
- You should also check the guidelines and requirements
- they may have specific requirements or preferences

What tense should you use when writing an academic report or paper?

- My reports about my research are in the past tense
- I describe
 - What I did
 - What I found
 - What other have done
 - What were my results & conclusions

What tense should you use when writing an academic report or paper?

But, if I was writing an assignment about a company

- It **was** founded in ... past tense for events in the past
- It **is** based in ... present tense - current status
- It **has** n numbers of employees
- N **produces**
- N **forecast**
- Although N **will be** liable for ... future when talking in the future

Different Perspectives

The background features a series of overlapping, semi-transparent geometric shapes in various shades of orange and yellow. These shapes are primarily located on the right side of the frame, creating a dynamic, layered effect. The overall aesthetic is clean and modern, with a focus on geometric forms and a warm color palette.

Perspective - a view

Different perspectives - different views

Cats are better than dogs

- This is one person's view or perspective

Cats are easier to keep than dogs, but dogs are more friendly

This shows different perspectives

Why is it important to discuss different perspectives in academic writing?

- It shows that you have done your research
- and thought about the topic
- This can help prove your understanding of a topic

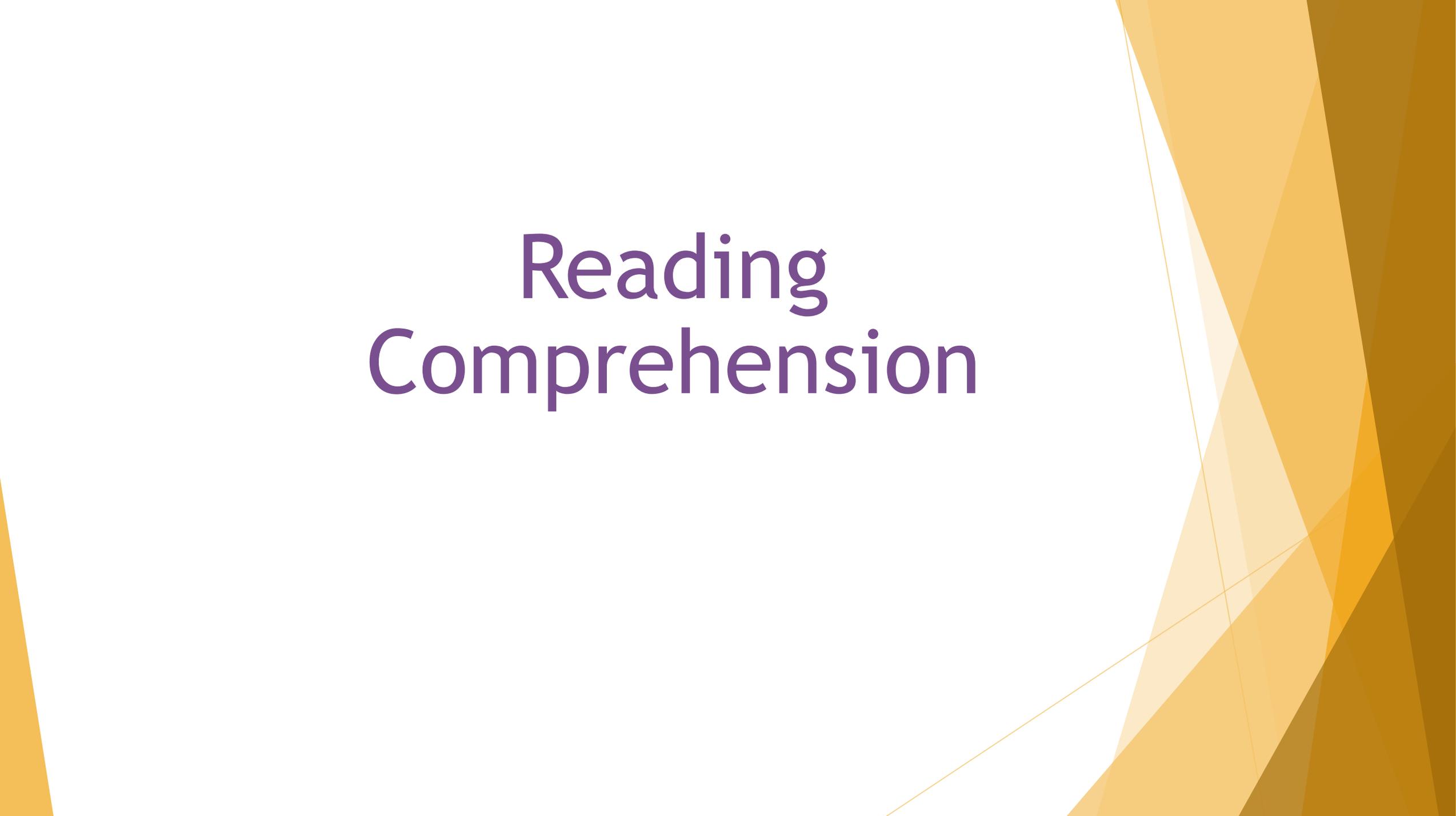
Why is it important to discuss different perspectives in academic writing?

- ▶ It helps to show the different views
- ▶ You show your side and other sides, not just your view
- ▶ This shows you know, have read and considered the different views

Why is it important to discuss different perspectives in academic writing?

- ▶ It promotes critical thinking:
- ▶ Helps develop understanding of the topic.
- ▶ It can also help you with further research
- ▶ It adds depth to the discussion:
- ▶ It can help uncover new insights and understandings

Reading Comprehension



Reading comprehension (#1)

Answer the following questions:

1. What is an academic presentation and how is it typically delivered?
2. What are some key strategies for delivering an effective academic presentation?
3. How can visual aids be used to enhance the impact of an academic presentation?

Reading text 1

An academic presentation is a way of sharing information about research or a topic in person, usually with the help of a PowerPoint or other visual aids. When giving an academic presentation, it is important to speak clearly, use appropriate body language, and engage with the audience. Visual aids can help to illustrate key points and keep the audience engaged.

Reading comprehension (#1)

Answer the following questions:

1. What is an academic presentation and how is it typically delivered?
2. What are some key strategies for delivering an effective academic presentation?
3. How can visual aids be used to enhance the impact of an academic presentation?

Reading comprehension (#2)

Answer the following questions:

1. What is the purpose of the introduction and conclusion in an academic report or paper?
2. What information should be included in the introduction of an academic report or paper?
3. How do the introduction and conclusion contribute to the overall understanding of an academic report or paper?

Reading text 2

The introduction is the beginning of an academic report or paper. It should introduce the topic and provide some background information. The conclusion is the end of the report or paper. It should summarize the main points and provide a final thought or conclusion. Both the introduction and conclusion are important for giving context and helping the reader understand the purpose and scope of the report or paper.

Reading comprehension (#2)

Answer the following questions:

1. What is the purpose of the introduction and conclusion in an academic report or paper?
2. What information should be included in the introduction of an academic report or paper?
3. How do the introduction and conclusion contribute to the overall understanding of an academic report or paper?

Reading comprehension (#3)

Answer the following questions:

1. Why is it important to cite sources when writing an academic report or paper?
2. What are some commonly used citation styles, and what purpose do they serve?
3. What is the benefit of citing sources when it comes to avoiding plagiarism and building credibility with readers?

Reading text 3

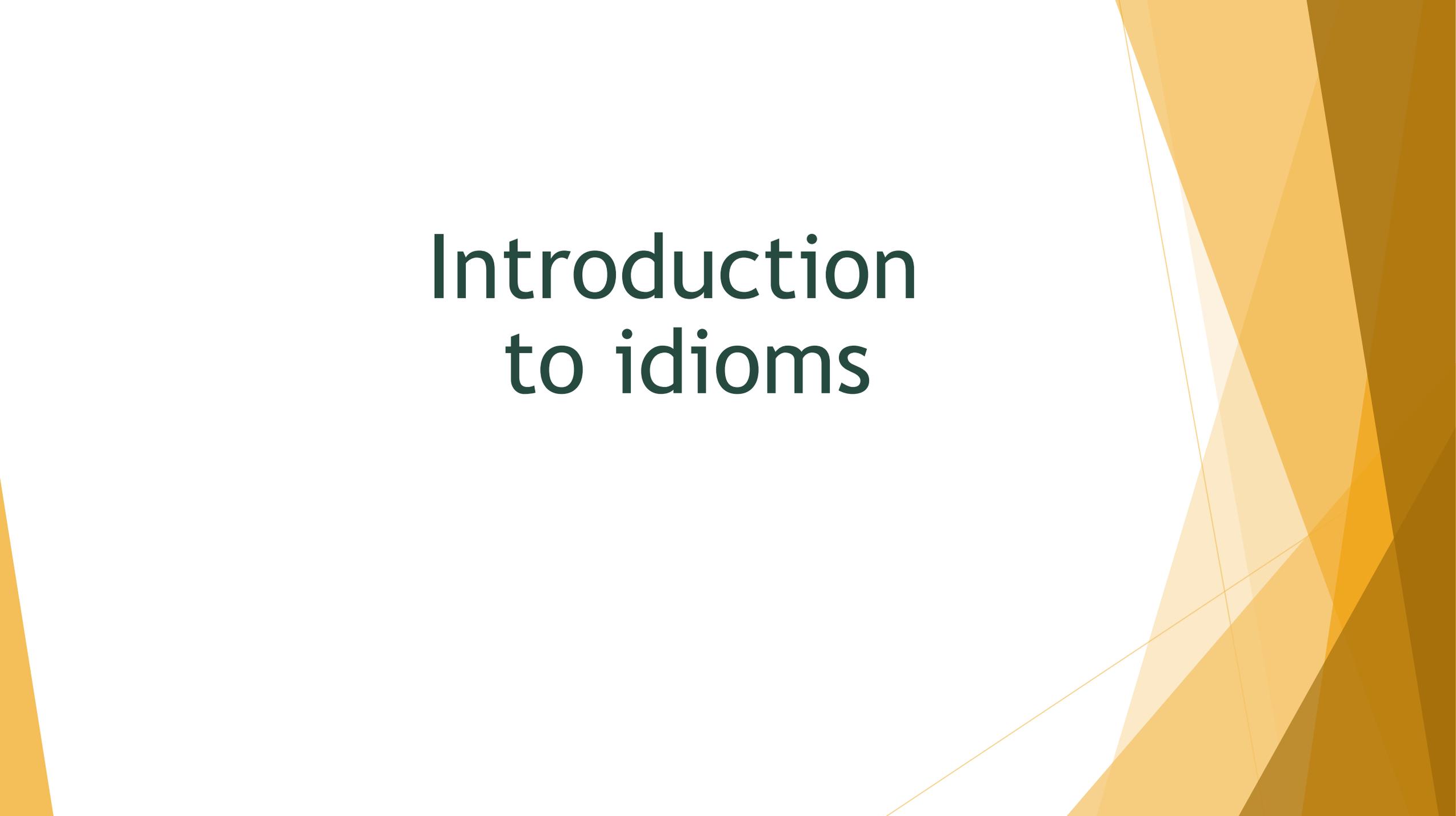
When writing an academic report or paper, it is important to cite your sources. This means giving credit to the authors of the sources you used in your research. You can do this by using a citation style, such as APA or MLA, which provides guidelines for formatting your citations. Citing your sources is important for avoiding plagiarism and showing your reader where you found your information.

Reading comprehension (#3)

Answer the following questions:

1. Why is it important to cite sources when writing an academic report or paper?
2. What are some commonly used citation styles, and what purpose do they serve?
3. What is the benefit of citing sources when it comes to avoiding plagiarism and building credibility with readers?

Introduction to idioms



Introduction

Idioms

- ▶ a group of words,
- ▶ that have a different meaning,
- ▶ when together,
- ▶ for example:

“break a leg”

Meaning: good luck

Does not mean: damage your leg

Idioms

- ▶ jump the gun
- ▶ kill two birds with one stone
- ▶ under the weather
- ▶ spill the beans / don't spill the beans
- ▶ bite your tongue
- ▶ keep your chin up
- ▶ hit the books



Definitions

1. **Jump the gun:** to do something too soon, before the right time
2. **Hit the books:** to study or do homework
3. **Keep your chin up:** to remain positive and not get down during difficult times
4. **Kill two birds with one stone:** to do two things at the same time
5. **Under the weather:** feeling unwell
6. **Don't spill the beans:** do not reveal the secret information
7. **Bite your tongue:** to stop yourself from speaking

Example sentences

- ▶ Tommy **jumped the gun** and started eating his dessert before finishing his dinner.
- ▶ Sarah has a big test tomorrow, so she needs to **hit the books** tonight to prepare.
- ▶ Even though he lost the game, Tim **kept his chin up** and congratulated the winner.
- ▶ Mom decided to go grocery shopping on her way home from work to **kill two birds with one stone**.

Examples

- ▶ Jenny stayed home from school today because she's feeling a bit **under the weather**.
- ▶ Tina promised her friend she wouldn't **spill the beans** about the surprise party.
- ▶ Even though he was angry, Jack decided to **bite his tongue** and not say anything hurtful.

Example conversations

Samantha: "I can't wait for the pizza to arrive. Can I have a slice now?"

Mom: "Not yet, Samantha. Let's wait for everyone to sit down first. Don't jump the gun!"

Johnny: "I have a spelling test tomorrow, but I want to play video games."

Dad: "Johnny, you need to hit the books and study for your test before you can play."

Amy: "I lost my favorite toy at the park today."

Friend: "Don't be sad, Amy. Keep your chin up. Maybe we can look for it together tomorrow."

Mom: "We need to buy bread for sandwiches and milk for cereal. Let's go to the grocery store."

Sarah: "Can we also get some apples for my snack? That way we can kill two birds with one stone."

Teacher: "Tommy, you look tired today. Are you feeling okay?"

Tommy: "Not really, Teacher. I'm feeling a little under the weather."

Sara: "I have a surprise gift for Mom's birthday!"

Brother: "Shh, Sara! Don't spill the beans. It's a secret!"

Dad: "Mom made broccoli for dinner tonight, and I don't like it."

Mom: "Dad, remember to bite your tongue. We should try new foods and be polite."

Identify the
correct idiom

Delete the incorrect idiom:

1. I have a headache today and feel a little dizzy, so I'm (**under the weather / hitting the books**).
2. When you are taking a test, it's important to (**keep your chin up / spill the beans**) and do your best.
3. If you want to finish two tasks at the same time, you can (**jump the gun / kill two birds with one stone**).
4. When you want to say something but it might hurt someone's feelings, it's better to _____ (**bite your tongue / hit the books**) instead.

Delete the incorrect idiom:

4. My sister loves to talk and sometimes she (**jumps the gun / spills the beans**) about surprises before they happen.

5. If you are feeling sad, it's important to (**keep your chin up / kill two birds with one stone**) and find things that make you happy.

6. When you have a secret, it's important to (**bite your tongue / hit the books**) and not tell anyone.

Fill in the blanks

jump the gun hit the books under the weather
don't spill the beans bite your tongue keep your chin up
kill two birds with one stone

Fill in the blanks:

1. I'm feeling a bit _____ today, so I think I'll stay home and rest.
2. If you want to finish your homework quickly and have time to play, try to _____ and do your chores at the same time.
3. My mom told me not to _____ and tell my brother about his surprise party.

jump the gun hit the books under the weather
don't spill the beans bite your tongue keep your chin up
kill two birds with one stone

Fill in the blanks:

4. When you want to say something but it might hurt someone's feelings, it's better to _____ instead.
5. If you're feeling down, try to _____ and think positively.
6. When you have a big test coming up, it's important to _____ and study hard.
7. During a race, if you start running before the signal, you will _____ and get disqualified.

Give examples

Example situations

Give an example of a situation where someone might need to:

1. "jump the gun"
2. "bite your tongue"
3. "keep their chin up"
4. "kill two birds with one stone"
5. "hit the books"

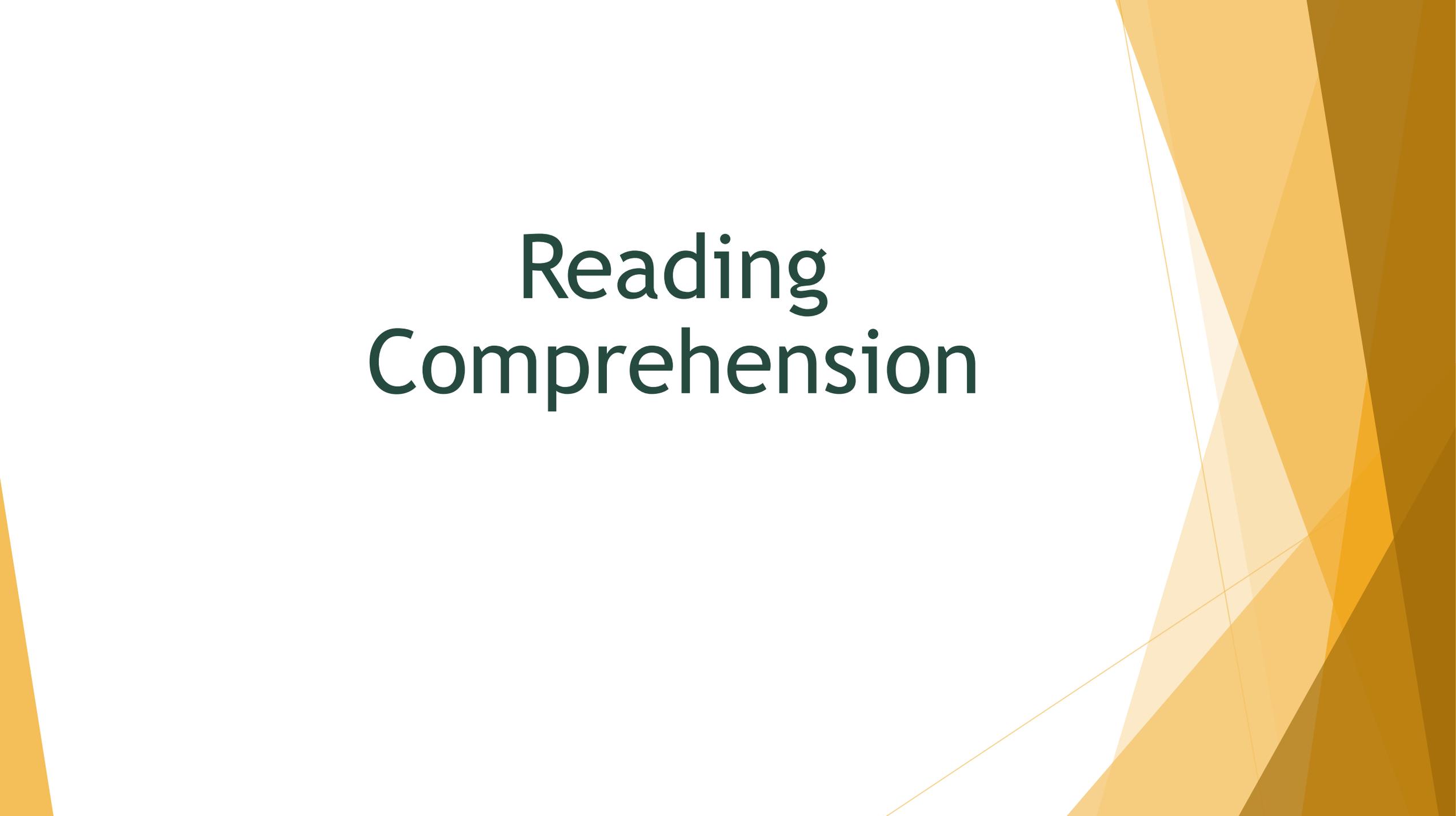
Example #1: starting to build a house before the land has been properly surveyed and approved for building.

Example answers

Example answers

1. starting to build a house before the land has been properly surveyed and approved for building.
2. when someone says something that you strongly disagree with, but you don't want to start an argument.
3. if they are going through a tough time, like a breakup or a difficult exam.
4. listening to English while doing exercise, which allows you to learn something and be healthy at the same time.
5. If you have a big exam coming up, or need to catch up on a subject.

Reading Comprehension



Reading text 1

Jenny was feeling sad because she had lost her favorite toy. She looked everywhere for it, but she couldn't find it. Her mom noticed that she was feeling down and said, "Jenny, I know you're feeling sad, but you need to keep your chin up. We'll find your toy, I promise." Jenny took a deep breath and tried to be positive, even though she was still sad.

Reading comprehension

Answer the following questions:

1. How was Jenny feeling at the beginning of the story?
2. What did her mom say to her when she noticed that she was feeling down?
3. What does "keep your chin up" mean?
4. Did Jenny find her toy?

Reading text 2

Alex had a big test coming up, and he hadn't studied at all. He knew that he needed to hit the books if he wanted to do well on the test. So, he spent the whole afternoon studying his notes and reviewing the material. By the time he went to bed, he felt much more confident about the test.

Reading comprehension

Answer the following questions:

1. Why did Alex need to hit the books?
2. What did Alex do to prepare for the test?
3. What does "hit the books" mean?
4. How did Alex feel after studying?

Reading text 3

Sarah's mum was planning a surprise party for her dad's birthday. Sarah was very excited about the party and couldn't wait to tell her dad. But her mom told her, "Sarah, don't spill the beans! We want it to be a surprise." Sarah realized that it would be much more fun for everyone if she kept the party a secret.

Reading comprehension

Answer the following questions:

1. What was Sarah's mum planning?
2. Why was Sarah excited about the party?
3. Why was it important for Sarah to keep the party a secret?
4. What does this mean - “couldn't wait to tell her dad”?

Thank you!
any questions?