



Finding Answers in Texts: A Complete Guide

KS2 ENGLISH

READING COMPREHENSION

TEXT ANALYSIS

Ages 9-12 🕒 3 min read

Understanding the Question First

Before you hunt for an answer, you need to understand what the question is really asking. Read it carefully at least twice. Look for **key words** in the question — these are the important words that tell you what to search for. If a question asks 'Why did the character leave home?', the key words are 'why', 'character', and 'leave home'.

Think of it like a treasure hunt: the key words on your map tell you exactly what treasure to search for, not just any treasure.

Finding Clues in the Text

Now you're ready to search the text. Look for sentences that mention the key words you identified. The answer is usually **close to where these words appear**. You don't need to read the whole text again — just scan for your key words like a metal detector looking for metal.

Sometimes the answer isn't written in exactly the same words as the question. The text might say 'She packed her bags and left at dawn' when the question asks 'When did she leave?' You need to understand what the text is **really telling you**, even if it uses different words.

Think of it like following a recipe: the ingredients list tells you what to look for, and the instructions tell you what to do with them.

Three Useful Strategies

Strategy One: Use Ctrl+F (or Command+F) If you're reading on a computer or tablet, use the search function to find your key words instantly. This saves time and helps you never miss the answer hiding in a long text.

Strategy Two: Read Around the Answer Once you find a sentence with your key word, read the sentences before and after it. The answer often needs **context** — information from surrounding sentences — to make complete sense.

Strategy Three: Check Your Answer Does your answer actually answer the question? Read the question again and your answer together. Do they fit? If you found 'She left because it was raining' but the question asks 'When did she leave?', you've found useful information, but not the answer to that specific question.

Remember: Think Like a Detective

Finding answers in texts is like being a detective. You hunt for **clues**, you examine them carefully, and you only report what the evidence actually shows. Never guess or make up an answer. The text holds the truth — you just need to find it.