

Magazine Scanning

THEME:	LEISURE (READING, MEDIA)			
LANGUAGE:	ANY			
STANDARDS:	COMMUNICATION	CULTURES	CONNECTIONS	COMPARISONS
	1.2	2.2	3.2	4.1 4.2

Time Frame:

20-25 minutes

Materials Needed:

- Multiple copies of various magazines in the target language
- A handout for each student to complete with information about a magazine (provided for French, German, and Spanish)

Description of Task:

Pre-reading:

In English, the teacher asks the class to brainstorm about types of magazines, their contents and their layout. This brainstorming session is facilitated with examples of magazines from the U.S. Students can be specific about where certain pieces of information are found, the types of advertisements, articles, etc.

During reading:

Students are paired and each pair is given a magazine in the target language to examine. Various types of magazines can be used (e.g., sports, fashion, politics, teens). Along with this issue of the magazine, each student is given a handout that asks for specific information about that magazine (see handout provided). Each pair works to find the requested information. The handout is completed in English as the information is found.

Level:

Novice-Low/Mid

Purpose:

To scan a text for specific information

Language Structure(s):

Cognates

Communicative

Function(s):

Referential: Scanning for information; identifying items in text

Cultural Aspects:

Comparison of U.S. and target culture magazine contents and layout

Modalities:

Reading

NOTES

Post-reading:

A discussion in English can take place with the class. Pairs can share their answers and the teacher can ask questions that encourage the students to make comparisons between magazines in the U.S. and the target culture.

Assessment:

The completed handout acts as the assessment. The answers on the handout will include page numbers as well as some written information in English about the magazine to make it easy for the teacher to check students' answers.

Extensions:

Suggestions for adapting the task for various levels:

For advanced levels: The handout can be completed in the target language.

Other extensions:

Students may choose a 200-word passage and make a list of the seven most common words. Then take a passage of comparable length from a U.S. magazine and make a similar list. Are there words in common?

Cultural extensions:

Students can prepare a short paper comparing and contrasting target culture and U.S. magazines. This can be done in the target language or in English.

Reflections:

Magazine Scanning Activity—French

1. What is the name of your magazine?

2. What does this issue cost? (in Francs/Canadian dollars/other currency and \$)

3. What is the publication date? _____

4. After looking at the cover of this magazine, list two topics that will be discussed in this issue.

5. In which other countries is this magazine sold? _____

6. Is there a table of contents? If so, what is it called in French and on which page does it appear?

7. List some of the regular sections that are in this magazine. Give the English equivalent.

8. If there are any charts or graphs in this magazine, with what kinds of articles do they appear?

9. Are there any captions, titles, slogans, or headlines that you understand? Write down three of these and explain in English what you think they mean.

10. Look at the advertisements. Make a list of some of the U.S. products that are sold and also a list of some of the products from the other culture (e.g., France/Canada). Circle the French or French Canadian products on your list that you have seen for sale in the U.S.

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11. Make a list of 10 French names that you find in your magazine.

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12. List some French phone numbers, an address, and a price of something along with the page numbers where you found them.

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Magazine Scanning Activity—German

1. What is the name of your magazine?

2. What does this issue cost? (in DM and \$) _____

3. What is the publication date? _____

4. After looking at the cover of this magazine, list two topics that will be discussed in this issue.

5. In which other countries is this magazine sold? _____

6. Is there a table of contents? If so, what is it called in German and on which page does it appear?

7. List some of the regular sections that are in this magazine. Give the English equivalent.

8. If there are any charts or graphs in this magazine, with what kinds of articles do they appear?

9. Are there any captions, titles, slogans, or headlines that you understand? Write down three of these and explain in English what you think they mean.

10. Look at the advertisements. Make a list of some of the U.S. products that are sold and also a list of some of the German products. Circle the German products on your list that you have seen for sale in the U.S.

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11. Make a list of 10 German names that you find in your magazine.

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12. List some German phone numbers, an address, and a price of something along with the page numbers where you found them.

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Magazine Scanning Activity—Spanish

1. What is the name of your magazine?

2. What does this issue cost? (in pesetas/pesos/other currency and \$)

3. What is the publication date? _____

4. After looking at the cover of this magazine, list two topics that will be discussed in this issue.

5. In which other countries is this magazine sold? _____

6. Is there a table of contents? If so, what is it called in Spanish and on which page does it appear?

7. List some of the regular sections that are in this magazine. Give the English equivalent.

8. If there are any charts or graphs in this magazine, with what kinds of articles do they appear?

9. Are there any captions, titles, slogans, or headlines that you understand? Write down three of these and explain in English what you think they mean.

10. Look at the advertisements. Make a list of some of the U.S. products that are sold and also a list of some of the products from the other culture (e.g., Spanish/Mexican). Circle the Spanish products on your list that you have seen for sale in the U.S.

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11. Make a list of 10 Spanish names that you find in your magazine.

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12. List some Spanish phone numbers, an address, and a price of something along with the page numbers where you found them.

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