

Paragraph Patrol

Scanning a block of text

NAME

DATE

PARENT / TEACHER

VISUAL SCANNING

RETURN SWEEP

READING FLUENCY

THE STRATEGY ON THIS SHEET

Work line by line. A block of text invites the eye to skim the whole shape of it, and skimming is exactly how a word in the middle of a line gets missed.

1 Read the passage, then circle **elephants** every time it appears.

1 Every evening the elephants come down to the

2 waterhole. The rangers at the camp know each

3 family by the shape of their ears. One old

4 female, called Nandi, has a torn ear and

5 always arrives first. The younger elephants

6 wait at the treeline until she has drunk.

7 Nobody taught them this. The rangers say the

8 elephants have been using the same path for

9 longer than the camp has existed, and when a

10 new fence went up across it, the elephants

11 simply pushed it over and carried on.

FOUND
___ / 4

TIME TAKEN
__ : __

PERSONAL BEST
__ : __

Trains: visual scanning, return sweep

Accuracy first; speed is what accuracy buys you

Answer Key

LOS-4.5 · Paragraph Patrol · for the adult marking

Target

TASK 1 — ELEPHANTS

1	Every evening the elephants come down to the
2	waterhole. The rangers at the camp know each
3	family by the shape of their ears. One old
4	female, called Nandi, has a torn ear and
5	always arrives first. The younger elephants
6	wait at the treeline until she has drunk.
7	Nobody taught them this. The rangers say the
8	elephants have been using the same path for
9	longer than the camp has existed, and when a
10	new fence went up across it, the elephants
11	simply pushed it over and carried on.

Lines carrying it

1 · 0 · 0 · 0 · 1 · 0 · 0 · 1 · 0 · 1 · 0

4

A line skipped entirely is a return-sweep failure — the eye landed on the wrong line coming back. A target missed inside a line that was read is a scanning failure. They are different problems.