

Name _____ Date _____ Time taken _____

What this sheet trains

Divided attention - holding a second rule in mind while your main attention is busy elsewhere. This is the skill behind listening to a teacher while taking notes, or checking your working while solving the next step.

Strategy: anchor and sweep. Give the main task your focus and let the second task run as a quick, automatic check - do not swap your full attention back and forth.

1 Read and tally

Main task: read the passage once. Second task: the counting rule below.

Counting rule

Every time you read the word water, make one tally mark in the box at the foot of the page. Do not go back and re-read. One pass only.

Parts of eastern Tokyo sit roughly four metres lower than they did a century ago, and the cause was thirst rather than any earthquake. Factories rebuilt after the war drew water from the soft clays and sands beneath the city faster than rain could replace it, and as the water drained out of the pore spaces the clay compacted under the weight of everything above. Tide gauges, levelling surveys and the slow tilting of bridges recorded the loss. By the early 1960s the ground in some wards was sinking more than twenty centimetres a year, and sea walls were being raised to keep high water out of the streets.

Japan's response was regulatory rather than technical. Laws passed through the 1950s and 1960s restricted industrial pumping in designated districts and obliged firms to take piped water instead, at a price. Subsidence slowed within a few years and has now largely stopped. In places the water table has recovered so far that it floods deep basements and presses up against railway tunnels built when the ground was dry, so the engineering problem has reversed itself, which is an unusual kind of success and an expensive one to keep managing.

Tokyo is often cited as proof that a sinking city can simply switch off its pumps, and the inference is too quick to be useful. The city could substitute piped water because it had the money, a single authority able to regulate, and an industrial base small enough to charge. Jakarta, Ho Chi Minh City and Chennai are sinking for the same physical reason but keep pumping because no alternative water supply reaches most households. Compaction of clay is permanent and the land does not come back, which makes Tokyo less a template than a warning about how early such a decision has to be taken.

Tally here - one mark per water

Make the marks as you read, then write your total before turning the page.

Total

1 Questions - cover the passage first

Answer from memory. Do not look back at the passage.

My tally total

From page 1

Q1. What made the ground under parts of Tokyo sink during the twentieth century?

Q2. How did restricting industrial pumping stop the subsidence, and what new problem followed?

Q3. Why can Jakarta or Chennai not simply copy what Tokyo did?

Q4. What assumption does the writer think people make when they cite Tokyo as a model?

2 Grid sweep with a running count

Main task: cross out targets. Second task: keep a count in your head.

Rules - read both before you start, then start the timer

Main: cross out every number that is a multiple of 6.

Second: count - silently, no marks - how many numbers end in 4. Write the total in the box only when you have finished the whole grid.

283	139	779	457	399	849	537	771	406	955	566	272
539	365	246	109	730	124	644	172	404	420	650	997
452	890	880	806	719	182	898	412	903	748	486	808
765	262	172	560	463	462	830	884	314	721	336	316
297	510	696	978	460	925	351	262	726	879	836	249
404	473	801	450	406	191	680	566	975	861	553	482
140	598	189	316	452	360	632	844	265	829	803	154
687	614	697	431	689	792	197	955	983	314	160	883

Stop the timer when the grid is finished, not when you write the total.

Numbers ending in 4

Write it once the grid is done

3 Copy and total

Main task: copy each row of digits. Second task: keep a running total.

Rules

Main: copy each four-digit group into the box beside it, in order.

Second: add the two middle digits of every row to a running total as you go.

Write the running total in the box at the end of each row - from memory, not by going back and adding up at the end.

	Copy here	Running total
1 2 5 6		
3 2 3 4		
9 6 7 3		
9 3 8 5		
8 4 6 4		
9 2 8 5		
2 7 8 6		
5 6 5 8		
5 1 2 7		
2 1 4 5		
7 1 9 9		
1 5 8 1		

4 Bridging - answer in a sentence each

Where this shows up outside the sheet.

Q1. Which of the two jobs broke down first for you, and what do you think caused it?

Q2. In a science practical, what is likelier to slip: the procedure or the recording of results?

Q3. If you reread this passage with no tally to keep, how much more would you expect to hold?

Answer key

Task 1 · tally
water

7

Task 2 · crossed out
multiples of 6

12

Task 2 · counted
ending in 4

10

Task 3 · final total
two middle digits

113

Task 1 - suggested answers

Q1. Water was pumped from clays and sands faster than rain replaced it, so the clay compacted under the weight above.

Q2. Firms had to buy piped water instead, so the water table recovered; now it floods deep basements and presses on railway tunnels.

Q3. Most households there have no alternative piped supply, and those cities lack Tokyo's money and single regulating authority.

Q4. That the fix was mainly technical, when it depended on wealth, governing capacity and a chargeable industrial base.

Notes for the parent or teacher

- Mark the two tasks separately. A student who scores well on the main task and loses the count has not failed - that is the normal pattern, and it is the thing worth discussing.
- Do not prompt or remind during a task. The reminder is the skill.
- An untimed run is a valid run. Record the time only if the student wants to beat it next week.
- Repeat the sheet after a week rather than straight away. Spacing is what makes the gain stick.
- This is attention practice, not an assessment. It does not diagnose anything, and no sheet of this kind should be read as a measure of ability.