

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

Kuala Lumpur sits where two rivers meet, in a bowl of hills that funnels the afternoon rain into the city centre. For most of its history the capital flooded regularly. In 2007 engineers finished an unusual answer: a tunnel bored under the city, almost ten kilometres long and wide enough for a lorry. The SMART tunnel was built to do two completely different jobs.

In dry weather the middle section of the tunnel works as a motorway, carrying traffic on two decks stacked one above the other. When a storm builds in the hills, sensors upstream measure the rising river and the operators begin to clear the road. Barriers drop, the decks empty, and stormwater is let into the tunnel instead of into the streets. The water runs through the tunnel to a holding pond south of the city, and is released once the river has fallen. Switching the tunnel between its two uses takes less than an hour.

The tunnel has worked. Floods that once closed the city centre now pass with little damage, and the road has saved drivers a long detour every day. Yet a tunnel this costly cannot be the whole answer. Kuala Lumpur keeps paving over the ground that used to soak up rain, and every new car park sends water downhill faster than the one before. Concrete can be asked to carry a storm away, but concrete is also part of the reason the storm becomes a flood.

Tally here - one mark per tunnel

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 two different jobs was the SMART tunnel built to do?

Q2. How do the operators change the tunnel over from a road to a stormwater drain?

Q3. Why might a city that is still spreading outwards keep flooding even with the tunnel in place?

Q4. What point is the writer making about concrete in the final paragraph?

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 0. Write the total in the box only when you have finished the whole grid.

48	16	43	56	79	26	14	69	10	58	78	39	48	87	32	52
24	52	44	16	21	53	59	13	84	81	32	11	13	50	61	71
84	56	40	78	42	13	43	62	38	99	24	82	50	35	57	95
89	41	72	16	21	77	47	22	66	67	71	72	32	29	39	35
94	74	21	15	81	13	54	94	51	40	23	28	13	89	27	88
35	58	93	50	94	71	14	18	82	43	86	61	14	71	55	46
89	91	98	55	75	92	65	33	40	37	70	19	69	69	81	29
66	52	93	94	70	40	85	74	91	38	37	10	80	80	71	34

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

Numbers ending in 0

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 three-digit group into the box beside it, in order.

Second: add the middle digit 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 1 4		
5 5 9		
2 1 1		
2 8 3		
9 1 6		
1 9 1		
3 9 5		
4 7 7		
7 4 3		
1 1 9		
3 2 3		
5 4 1		

4 Bridging - answer in a sentence each

Where this shows up outside the sheet.

Q1. Which of your two tasks slipped first, and what made that one easier to drop?

Q2. When a teacher talks while you are still copying the last slide, what do you usually sacrifice?

Q3. What would you change about how you read if you knew questions were coming afterwards?

Answer key

Task 1 · tally
tunnel

8

Task 2 · crossed out
multiples of 6

15

Task 2 · counted
ending in 0

13

Task 3 · final total
middle digits

52

Task 1 - suggested answers

- Q1. It carries road traffic in dry weather and carries floodwater away from the city centre during storms.
- Q2. Sensors upstream warn of a rising river, barriers drop, the road decks are cleared, and water is let in.
- Q3. New paving stops rain soaking into the ground, so more water reaches the rivers faster than before.
- Q4. Concrete can solve a flood and cause one, so building more of it is not by itself protection.

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.