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Gadget crazy

Tune in to Reading

iPod nano

Strategy 1: Identifying adverb and adjective pairs

Writers use adverbs and adjectives to show their opinions. It can be useful to pick these words out of a text and decide whether they are positive or negative. The adverbs and adjectives are often used together in pairs, for example, *incredibly interesting*.

1 Read the first paragraph of the text and find adverb and adjective pairs used to give opinions.



iPod nano (2GB or 4GB)

The iPod nano, the latest mp3 player from Apple, is absolutely amazing. It is incredibly thin and small enough to fit into your jeans pocket. However, small size doesn't mean small memory. The memory capacity (2GB or 4GB) allows you to store 500 or 1,000 songs respectively. No sound quality has been lost

10 either. In fact, the nano's sound quality is absolutely fantastic.

The nano has no movable parts inside. This, combined with its size, makes the nano ideal for those who want to use it while working out at the gym. You can run or jump around and your sounds will not be affected. What also makes the nano a real 15 winner for the fitness fan is its stopwatch for timing exercise

routines. There's also a lap timer for you to record your times. Moreover, the nano will even tell you your shortest, longest and average lap times.

What about the nano's other features? The games Brick, 20 Music Quiz, Parachute and Solitaire are included as standard, which is not the most imaginative selection. Having said that, all are enjoyable games. The nano plays both photos and video on its colour screen and, although the screen is pretty small, images are sharp and perfectly clear. Finally, the battery should provide 25 you with 14 hours of playing time and will fast charge to 80% capacity in only 1.5 hours.

The nano may not have a voice recorder, but the lack of that feature does not in any way take away from its superb quality. The nano has not been around long, but it has already 30 established itself as the one the others have to beat!

Strategy 2: Opinion phrases

Another clue to the writer's opinion is the way in which the writer uses certain phrases.

2 Look at the phrases from the text and decide whether they are positive or negative. Find evidence for your decision.

- 1 This, combined with its size, makes the nano ideal for those who want to use it while working out at the gym. (lines 11-13)
- 2 What also makes the nano a real winner for the fitness fan is its stopwatch for timing exercise routines. (lines 14-16)
- 3 which is not the most imaginative selection. (line 21)
- 4 Having said that, all are enjoyable games. (lines 21-22)
- 5 although the screen is pretty small,... (line 23)
- 6 images are sharp and perfectly clear. (lines 23-24)
- 7 The nano may not have a voice recorder,... (line 27)
- 8 but the lack of that feature does not in any way take away from its superb quality. (lines 27-28)

Strategy 3: Referring devices

Writers use referring devices like *although* to show contrast or to emphasise opinions. Look out for them as you read and see how they are being used.

3 Match the two parts of the sentences. Then check your answers in the text. The referring device is in bold.

- 1 No sound quality has been lost either.
- 2 There's also a lap timer for you to record your times.
- 3 The games Brick, Music Quiz, Parachute and Solitaire are included as standard, which is not the most imaginative selection.
- 4 **Although** the screen is pretty small,
- 5 The nano may not have a voice recorder,
a **Moreover**, the nano will even tell you your shortest, longest and average lap times.
b images are sharp and perfectly clear.
c **but the lack of that** feature does not in any way take away from its superb quality.
d **In fact**, the nano's sound quality is absolutely fantastic.
e **Having said that**, they all are enjoyable games.