

***Inside Reading Level 2***  
**Unit 4 Skill Review: Scanning**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

The Review Skill for Unit 4 asks you to scan Reading 1 for specific years to answer questions about Shakespeare.

Let's take a look at Reading 2 to practice scanning for information.

Joseph Conrad spoke many languages. He used them for different purposes and had different feelings about the languages he knew.

Read each statement below that describes a language that Conrad knew. Then scan the reading for the following languages English, Polish, Russian, and French. Match the language to the correct description below. Note you may use a language more than once.

1. This language causes an accent which lasted throughout his life. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Although an excellent writer in this language, he was reluctant to speak it. \_\_\_\_\_
3. This was the language he was most comfortable speaking. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Conrad used this language for his professional writing. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Because of his family's exile, Conrad learned this language. \_\_\_\_\_

**Early Language Experience**

His early life with his parents almost certainly influenced his success with languages. His father was clearly good at them—skillful enough to translate written texts into Polish from French and English. Like many well-born Poles at the time, Conrad learned French early in life. Given Russia's domination of Poland and his family's exile in Russia, Conrad must have learned some Russian as well.

**Speaking and Writing**

Throughout his life, Conrad was more inclined to read and write than to speak. He was often depressed and socially uncomfortable. This was probably one reason why, despite his excellent skills in English writing, he was very reluctant to speak English. A strong Polish accent persisted throughout his life. Even his wife and children said it made him hard to understand. French remained the language he was most comfortable speaking for the rest of his life.

By the time his first novel, *Almayer's Folly*, was published in 1895, there was no doubt that English was the language in which he would write. He had accumulated an immense vocabulary. His style was intriguing but not foreign-sounding. In fact, he wrote with a directness and plain style that were about 30 years ahead of their time. Some of his works, especially *Heart of Darkness* (1902) and *Nostromo* (1904), still sound reasonably modern.

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**Answer Key**

1. This language causes an accent which lasted throughout his life. Polish
2. Although an excellent writer in this language, he was reluctant to speak it. English
3. This was the language he was most comfortable speaking. French
4. Conrad used this language for his professional writing. English
5. Because of his family's exile, Conrad learned this language. Russian