

Transparency

18. READING TECHNIQUES.

Please, follow the following steps before reading the whole text.

1. The title of the following text is ***VALENCIA, THE CITY TODAY***. What do you already know about the topic? Mention some facts.

2. Write down six key words you expect to find in the text.

3. Now write down as many associations as you can think of for each one.

4. Look at the first and last paragraphs of the text. Write a sentence you think it will describe the general idea of the text.

5. Write down several things you would like to find out in the text.

6. **Read** the whole text.

7. Was your general idea (4) above correct?

Valencia, the city today

In Valencia, the importance of tradition can be appreciated in many of the city's aspects, although always in striking contrast to its latest modern features. The mixture of lifestyles and characters is precisely one of the things that gives Valencia its indefinable charm; a charm that has been noted by many illustrious travellers, from Prospero de Merimée to Hemingway or Tennessee Williams.

A greatly dynamic city, Valencia is now **opening up to the sea** - along standing aspiration of its citizens - and fights with tenacity to consolidate and increase its level of progress and prosperity and its commercial and cultural prestige, a true wealth that is notably visible to all visitors.

Without doubt, Valencia is a city that is full of life and optimism. This is reflected by the growing activity of its **International Trade Fair**, where more than forty specialized fairs take place each year (...). The **autonomous port** is another of the city's centres of commerce and its importance and volume of business increases every year. The enlargement of the **airport at Manises** with the increase in its number of passengers is another reality that proves the growing importance of Valencia. (...).

Blessed with an **extraordinarily mild climate**, (...) **delicious gastronomy**, a first class cultural offer (daily concerts in the Music Palace, magnificent exhibitions of contemporary art in the IVAM gallery) and a **nightlife** that is famous in the whole of the Mediterranean area. (...)

The Central Market (Mercado Central), opposite the mediaeval exchange market building (La Lonja) was opened in 1928 and is still in full working order. It is a superb example of modernism and the wealth of its architectural details is a pleasure to visit. **The Central Station (La Estación del Norte)** is the other large modernist building of the city. It was opened in 1917 and its avant-garde¹ design was a great achievement for its time. The ceramic motifs, the façade, the entrance hall, the murals depicting Valencian scenes and the metallic roofing all form a darling, but admirable and balanced construction.

Other interesting architecture that reflects the dominating tendencies of the twentieth century is mainly to be found in the area surrounding the medieval city (**El Ensanche**), but can also be found in the areas of **La Alameda, Ruzafa, and El Cabañal**, which have some delightful example of popular modernism. (...)

If you are a culture lover there is no reason for you to get bored in Valencia. (...).

Rice. The first word that should be mentioned when talking about Valencian gastronomy. (...). Do not mislead into thinking that Valencia only offers rice. One can find many good seafood restaurants and restaurants that specialise in French, Chinese, Basque and Arab cuisine among others. (...). Don't think about it twice ... Valencia awaits you!

¹avant-garde = vanguardia (avant-garde movement)