

Activity 16. Read the passage. In pairs, discuss the questions in the box. When discussing you can use the connective words given in Appendix I. Cohesive Devices.

Numeracy is defined as the ability to understand and use maths in daily life, at home, work, or school; it doesn't mean complex skills, like algebra, it means being confident enough to use basic maths in real-life situations. Numeracy is not always taught in the classroom: it means having the confidence and skills to use maths to solve problems in everyday life. Numeracy is as important as literacy — it's sometimes called “mathematical literacy” — and we need both to get on in life. Numeracy means understanding how maths is used in the real world and being able to apply it to make the best possible decisions. It's as much about thinking and reasoning as about “doing sums”. It means being able to: interpret data, charts, and diagrams; process information; solve problems; check answers; understand and explain solutions; make decisions based on logical thinking and reasoning.

(from National Numeracy)