

INTERNATIONAL TURKISH HOPE SCHOOL

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CHITTAGONG SENIOR SECTION

ENGLISH LANGUAGE HANDOUT – READING (Sec A)

CLASS IX and X

Name :

Date :

Want to know how to increase reading comprehension fast? Here are 15 important tips you must know.

We all know that improving reading skills will reduce unessential reading time and enable us to read in a more focused and selective way. Also, you can improve the current levels of concentration and understanding. This handout will provide you with top tips on how to increase reading comprehension that allow you to read with greater effectiveness and efficiency easily.

How To Increase Reading Comprehension – Strategies For Better Reading

1. Find Out Reading Goals

Clear reading goals could significantly enhance your reading efficiency. You had better determine reading goals to select priorities information according to your task. In fact, reading goals could be a seminar subject or essay, a selected subject area, a list of questions about specific topic. Different readers will have drastically different objectives. If you do not define a purpose, it is likely you will ignore critical ones and get bogged down by unimportant parts. Making use of reading goals will assist you in identifying the important information that is relevant to your task.

2. Research The Topic

Background information is very important when it comes to learning how to increase reading comprehension. This might appear on book covers and inner flaps of the book jackets. A lot of books contain an introductory as well as a mini-biography about the author. Or, you can look for background information in the website of book publisher. When reading this information, you should ask yourself:

- What kind of text is?
- What news did you learn and what you are expecting to learn?
- Is this text entertaining or informative, fact or fiction?
- What interests you about this book?

3. Learn New Vocabulary

When reading, you should make a complete list of new vocabulary and look up the meaning of each word to understand more about the content of the book or text. There are many ways to help you improve your vocabulary, which are:

- Using a dictionary or a computer while reading. If you come across an unfamiliar word, look it up and write down its definitions. Writing the definition by your hand will support you to memorize it much better than just typing or reading alone.

- Reading books above your current level. Do not limit your ability of reading by just reading things you are good at. Books above your level will include lots of tricky vocabulary words. Although getting through these kinds of books can be hard at first, but it will allow you to get great knowledge.

4. Reflect The Documents And Create Questions

Besides the general purpose, it is also useful for you to note down all specific questions. By this way, you will focus your own mind on specific objectives and measure comprehension easily. When writing down the questions, you are creating a set of mental cues. When you spot the keyword in the book or text, you will be aware of the question related to it and steadily looking for the answer. Many studies indicated that writing notes by hand will increase recall and comprehension, and also boost understanding.

5. Take Note Important Concepts

In reality, one of the best ways to sculpture something in your mind is to write it down. Whenever you read something important, make a note of it, and use a highlighter. This will help you memorize what you read and make the important parts easy to find when you review the book or text.

6. Scanning

You might hear this technique before. Scanning is the technique that you may use when reading a telephone directory. You will pass your vision through a section of text to find particular words or phrases which are relevant to the current task. With this reading technique, you can scan:

- The introduction or preface of the book or text
- The first and last part of chapters
- The summarizing and concluding chapter of a text
- And the index of the book

7. Skimming

This is a process of speed reading for getting general meaning. You will go through the outline as well as the main points of the text to get an idea about its contents. To do this technique, you move your eyes over sentences or phrases that include detail. Focus on identifying main points and central of the text. Make use of this reading technique to:

- Pre-view a text prior to detailed reading
- Refresh the understanding of a selection of text according to detailed reading.

8. Summarizing

This is an efficient strategy for those readers, who have trouble remembering as well as writing about what they have covered. Actually, a summary could take many forms, containing travelogues, journals, letters, and double-entry journals. Make use again of the scanning and skimming technique above to reinforce your understanding.

9. Choose The Perfect Environment

The ambiance you choose for reading always matters. As reading needs concentration and peace of mind, thus you need to make sure that there will be no disturbances or distractions. The advice is that you should choose a quiet and cozy place where you could sit freely and read anything with full concentration and dedication. You can take advantage of furniture to rest the book like a table or a desk. Or, you can sit in a chair that you feel comfortable and then enjoy your own reading time. If possible, you can create special spot to sit and read. It will promote your mood to read because it is only dedicated for your reading.

10. Read Aloud

This technique can be useful for some people with distractions around. If you are unable to follow what you read or cannot focus, then you can read aloud. Read loudly sounds childish but it is considered as one of the best manners to help you find focus. You can stay on track while reading aloud. This also helps you know more about your reading ability like how you pronounce a word, how the pace is when reading various sentences and how you change the tone when reading various contents. In case that you are surrounded by a lot of people, try reading loudly in the own mind. So, you will concentrate on what you read effectively.

11. Speed

For improving your reading speed, it is critical for you to set a target. When it comes to reading speed, it means that you should read at a faster rate while trying to understand what you have read. Many people read so fast, but after reading, they would not have taken anything into their mind. So, if you want to read fast and understand what you read efficiently, you have to practice. Practice makes perfect. All what you need is to plan what you want to read and the quantity of hours you spend on reading. Try to finish the reading before the deadline. When you achieve that target, you can speed up your reading by setting a timer and read the words. If possible, calculate the number of words you read per every minute. Keep in mind that you should set your target depending on your own reading ability.

12. Try To Read More

As mentioned above, practice makes perfect. You should visit the library regularly. Because libraries have a variety of contents and also supply people with the best ambiance to read, so you can focus and improve your reading skills dramatically. Discover as many books as possible, refer various types of materials, including novels, newspapers, comics, biographies, autobiographies, or anything else you are interested in. It is recommended that you can try all the genres to improve your own vocabulary and create a deep interest in reading.

13. Reread

Read the books over again to get fluency. Fluency is the possibility to read words at a certain speed. In order to be fluent, you should be able to read 90 words per minute. That seems like a lot, yet with frequent practice, you can get this ability. So, what type of practice you need to do? It names re-reading. The advice is that you should read books over again, twice, or three times. Then, you might surprise that after that first time of reading, the words will be easier to read and fluent to improve.

14. Test Yourself

After reading session, you can ask yourself some questions about the main points. What was the main idea? Who are characters in the story? What information did you get? Try to jot down any thoughts in your own words to remember the information you grasped and help you have a deep insight into the subject. In order to be fluent in reading, you also need to find out useful ways to learn more effectively and harness your mind power efficiently.

15. Read With The Help Of Others

The last but not least important tips on how to increase reading comprehension is getting favor of a teacher, friend, parent, or anyone else, who is good at the subject you are reading. When reading with a helper, you should:

- Pre-reading: identify the vocabulary words initially, preview key comprehension questions.
- Reading: ask questions, read aloud, listen to someone else reading, take notes
- Post-reading: summarize, ask questions, predict things going to happen next relied on what you have just read.