
Introduction

HOW TO BECOME A BETTER READER

Why is reading important when you are learning a new language? Here are some of the reasons:

- Reading helps you learn to think in the new language.
- Reading helps you build a better vocabulary.
- Reading makes you more comfortable with written English. You can write better English if you feel comfortable with the language.
- Reading may be the only way for you to use English if you live in a non-English-speaking country.
- Reading can help if you plan to study in an English-speaking country.

This book will help you learn to read better in English. You will work on four things in this book.

1. Reading For Pleasure

Read as much as you can. Read books, magazines, newspapers, stories. Read anything you like. The more you read, the better you will read.

Choose a book from the list in Part I. Or find another book that is interesting to you. Your teacher can help you find one at the bookstore or the library.

Read your book every day. Time your reading. Keep a record of your reading rate on the chart on page 275.

Be sure to talk about your book with your teacher, your classmates, and your friends.

2. Working On Your Reading Skills

When you read, you use many different skills. You need to work on them one at a time. Here are six important skills you will work on:

- **Previewing.** Before you start reading, find out something about what you will read. Then you can start thinking about the subject. You will be able to read faster and with more understanding.
- **Asking questions as you read.** This keeps your mind on what you read. Asking questions helps you pay attention. It also helps you to remember what you read.
- **Guessing what new words mean.** It takes too much time to look up every new word. And if you stop, you may forget what you are reading. Use the whole sentence or paragraph to guess words.

- **Finding the topic and the main idea.** The topic and the main idea let you know what is important. To find the topic and the main idea, ask two questions:
What is this about?
What does the writer want to say about this?
- **Understanding patterns in English.** A pattern is a way of putting ideas together. If you find the pattern, you can understand more. You will also remember more.
- **Using signal words.** Some words are like signposts on a highway. They tell you what direction the writer is going. And they help you to follow the writer's ideas. Signal words also help you guess what you will read about.

3. Learning To Read Faster

Reading faster is very important because of the way your brain works. When you read slowly, your brain does not get enough information. You understand better when you read faster.

4. Learning To Think In English

You also need to work on understanding English sentences. Learn how to get the meaning of sentences. Find out how ideas follow each other in English.

HOW TO READ FASTER

Why read faster?

Reading faster helps you to understand more. This may be surprising. But, in fact, your brain works better when you read faster. Try reading this:

Many	students	are	surprised	when
the	teacher	tells	them	to
faster.	But	they	soon	find
they	understand	more	that	way.

If you read slowly, you read one word at a time. You must remember many separate words. Soon you can get tired or bored.

But if you read faster, you can read groups of words together. Then you can think about ideas and not just single words. That is why you understand better and remember more.

Read the three short passages in this chapter. Time yourself for each one. After each passage, there are comprehension questions. You will have two chances to answer them. The first time, do not look back at the passage. See how much you can remember. Then answer the questions again. This time you may look back if you need to.

Your teacher will tell you when to start the first passage.



Read Passage A.

Starting Time _____

A

Rosebud is a small town in New Jersey. It looks like many other towns in the United States. On Main Street there is a post office and a police station. The drugstore and the library are down the street. There is also a shopping center. It has a supermarket and a department store. Rosebud is a quiet place, not very rich or poor. But the town is growing. There are new houses every year. It is a popular place to live because it is near New York City. Many people live in Rosebud and work in New York.

Stop! Write the time you finished reading: _____
Turn the page and answer the questions. Do not look back.

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is about
- a. New York City.
 - b. towns.
 - c. Rosebud, N.J.
 - d. a quiet place.
2. Rosebud is
- a. like many other American towns.
 - b. not like many other American towns.
 - c. a noisy place.
 - d. a large city.
3. Every year Rosebud
- a. has fewer houses.
 - b. is like other American towns.
 - c. has noisy streets.
 - d. has more houses.
4. Many people want to live in Rosebud because
- a. it is growing.
 - b. it is a quiet place.
 - c. it is near New York City.
 - d. it is not rich or poor.

Go back and answer the questions a second time. You may look back at the passage. Write the answers in the boxes at the right.

Check your answers in the Answer Key on page 259.

Number correct: _____ .



Now read Passage B.

Starting Time _____

B

In the middle of Rosebud, N.J., near the post office, is the office of Dr. Sam Diamond. Everybody in town knows Dr. Diamond. He's a very good dentist. He's also a popular person. He likes to tell funny stories to his patients. They forget about their teeth when they listen to him. On the weekends Dr. Diamond likes to go to basketball games. Sometimes he also watches sports on TV. But his favorite activity is fishing. Every Saturday in the summer, he gets up early in the morning. He and his friends spend the day fishing at Lake Massapog.

Stop! Write the time you finished reading: _____
Turn the page and answer the questions. Don't look back.

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is about
a. a dentist.
b. what Dr. Diamond likes to do.
c. Dr. Sam Diamond.
d. fishing.
2. Dr. Diamond is popular because
a. everyone in town knows him.
b. he listens to his patients.
c. he tells his patients funny stories.
d. he likes to go fishing.
3. Fishing is Dr. Diamond's
a. job.
b. favorite activity.
c. dream.
d. patient.
4. Dr. Diamond likes to be
a. with people.
b. alone.
c. quiet.
d. a patient.

Go back and answer the questions a second time. You may look back at the passage. Write the answers in the boxes on the right.

Check your answers in the Answer Key on page 259.

Number correct: _____



Read Passage C.

Starting Time _____

C

Dr. Diamond is married to Susan Diamond. She is a scientist with a Ph.D in chemistry. She works in a laboratory in New York City. She and some other scientists are studying the air over the city. They want to find a way to make the air cleaner. Every morning, Susan takes the train to New York. She sees the dirty air. She also sees the dirt and garbage on the streets. She is glad she lives in New Jersey, and not in New York. The Diamonds' house has a back yard with trees and beautiful flowers. Susan's favorite activity is working in her garden.

Stop! Write the time you finished reading: _____

Turn the page and answer the questions. Don't look back.

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is about
a. Dr. Diamond.
b. scientists.
c. the city and the country.
d. Susan Diamond.
2. Susan Diamond thinks New York
a. is a nice city.
b. is a clean city.
c. is a busy city.
d. has dirty air and streets.
3. Rosebud is
a. dirtier than New York.
b. cleaner than New York.
c. crowded.
d. not a good place to live.
4. Susan's favorite activity is
a. taking the train to New York City.
b. working in the laboratory.
c. working in the garden.
d. New York City.

Go back and answer the questions a second time. You may look back at the passage. Write the answers in the boxes on the right.

Check your answers in the Answer Key on page 259.

Number correct: _____