

Larbi Ben M'hidi University- Oum El Bouaghi
Department of English
Course Title: READING
Level: First Year-LMD
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INTRODUCTION

1. Why is reading important ?

Reading is one important way to improve your general skills in English. How does reading help you ?

- Reading improves your vocabulary.
- Reading gives you a glimpse into other cultures and places.
- Reading can help you improve your writing.
- Reading improves concentration and focus.
- Reading can help you prepare for study in an English-speaking country.
- Reading improves memory.
- Reading is a good way to find out about new ideas, facts, and experiences.
- Reading reduces stress.

2. What to look for in a text

a. Topic (The one thing a text is about)

Ask yourself:

What is the text about?

b. The main idea

Ask yourself:

What does the writer say/claim/argue/believe about the topic? What statement does the writer make about the topic? What is the writer's opinion/point of view about the topic?

Usually the writer states the main argument explicitly in one or more sentences, but sometimes the reader needs to infer it from the text.

c. How the text is organized

Ask yourself:

What are the main sections of the text? What does the writer present/give us in each section?

d. How the writer supports the main idea

Ask yourself:

What does the writer give us in the text to support the main idea/argument/point of view?

What does the text offer to persuade us to believe the writer's claim/argument/ point of view?

Does the text contain explanations, examples, factual information or research reports to strengthen the argument?

e. Writer's purpose

Ask yourself:

Why has the writer written this article? What message does the writer want to bring across?

Writers have reasons for writing. Very often writers have more than one reason. Here are some possible reasons: to provide information, to

convince the reader about something, to suggest solutions to a problem, to motivate readers to change something (a call to action).

3. Tips on how to read a text

Before Reading

- Set a purpose.
 - Why are you reading this text?
- Activate background knowledge.
- Make predictions (about content and author's purpose).
- Use titles (headings and subheadings), illustrations, images to understand.
- Preview the length of the text.
- Make a plan.
 - How will you read this text (independently, with a partner/group, etc.)?
 - How much time will you spend reading?
 - What strategies will you use?

During Reading

- Read.
- Make inferences.
- Determine main ideas and trivial elements or sections.
- Establish links between knowledge and new ideas.
- Ask yourself questions
 - What happened?
 - Why did it happen?
 - Does this make sense?

-Do I understand?

- Use context to guess word meanings.
- Pause and summarize.

After Reading

- Pause and think about what you knew before reading, what you learned during reading, and what connections you made.
- Try to create new knowledge by combining what you knew with what you learned.
- Participate in discussion.
- Create a graphic representation.
- Summarize.
- Search for answers to unanswered question.
- Write about what you read— put it in your words.

Reference :

Beers, K. (2000). Reading Skills and Strategies: Reaching Reluctant Readers. Elements of Literature Series: Grades 6-12. Austin: Holt, Rinehart and Winston.