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HOW TO IMPROVE READING SKILLS WHEN LEARNING ENGLISH

Reading is a very important language learning skill. It helps to improve all parts of the English language – vocabulary, spelling, grammar and writing. Improve and use your reading skills and you will improve all your English skills. If you want to learn English more quickly, lots of reading is important. The more you read the more your brain gets about how the language works.

Reading is the best way to improve your vocabulary. The context of articles, stories and conversations helps you to figure out and understand the meaning of English words in the text that are new to you. Reading also provides repetition of vocabulary words you have already learned and help you to remember them.

“Reading comprehension” refers to how much you understand of what you read. Even if you read an English book every week, it doesn’t help your learning much if you don’t know what the words on the pages are saying. The way that will actually improve your skills is to learn a skill well, you need to learn smaller parts that will help you “build” your knowledge and skills.

To really understand what you read, you might need to work on other skills first. You might need to practice reading quickly (or slowly). You might need to stop choosing very difficult books, and start choosing the right books for your skill level. Start easier, start smaller and slower, and then gradually increase the difficulty. Remember this when you’re working to improve your reading comprehension – and any other English language skill. The steps below will show you exactly how to improve reading skills the right way.

Always make special time to read. If you’re reading to improve your comprehension, you need to have special time and then **focus** and **study**. You should try to spend at least 30 minutes every day on focused reading. The more you read, the more you’ll improve.

Read the right books. You should read things that you enjoy. You should also choose books that are at an English level just above the one you’re most comfortable with. Find the perfect book for improving your reading comprehension.

Ask yourself questions while reading and after reading. Learning how to read English books is about more than just reading the words. There are a few things you can do before, during and after reading to help you better understand the text. Before you read, **browse** the text. That means you should look over the text quickly without actually reading every word. Take some time after you read too, to browse again and **summarize** what you remember. Try to quickly say or write a few sentences that describe what the text was about. Thinking about what you read will show you how much of it you really understood and help you figure out if you still have questions.

Improve fluency first. Imagine reading an entire article or even book, stopping after every word. It would be difficult to understand. To improve your understanding, it’s important to improve your **fluency** first. When you can read at a comfortable speed, you can focus on understanding.

Once you’ve learned to speed up, slow down. One great way to slow yourself down is to **read out loud**. Focus on speaking every word carefully and pronouncing it well.

Ask lots of questions. The more you question what you read, the deeper you get into the meaning. Write down any questions that come to mind as you’re reading. Stick them in the text. When you finish reading, go back and see how many of the questions you can answer now. If there are any questions you still don’t know the answer to, re-read that part of the text and try to find the answer.

Read it again. If there are any new words in the text, you'll see them again every time you read again, helping you remember them. Read the article again. Write down everything you can remember again. Every time you read something, you understand more of it.

Read many kinds of texts.

Read books, newspapers, magazines, blogs, emails, Tweets and texts. Read anything and everything. Follow some interesting people or websites on Facebook.

If you follow these steps to learn English reading, you might suddenly discover that you're reading better and understanding more even in your own native language.