

STRATEGIES TO HELP IMPROVE READING COMPREHENSION

1. Find books you'll like

Sometimes, low reading comprehension comes down to the fact that a student just isn't interested in what he or she is reading. In fact, **73% of students say they would read more if they could find books they liked**. The secret to becoming a better reader is practise—something that is much easier when you actually like what you are reading.

2. Make Reading a habit

Reading even 15 minutes every day will help you to become more fluent and develop your comprehension. Choose a book you will enjoy, have a regular time slot – e.g. after dinner, before bed, & read. The top sports people and musicians are as good as they are because they practice every day.

3. Read aloud

Hearing the words out loud helps many students gain a better understanding of what they are reading than they can get while reading in their head. Read aloud if you are struggling with a certain part of a book or a particular word.

4. Skim the headings of the text

Quickly skimming the headings of a book gives students a high-level overview of what they are reading. Use the headings to quickly understand what the reading is about and the main points before actually starting reading.

5. Re-read sections that are confusing

Revisiting the parts that were confusing (or that might simply need a quick refresher) can help gain a more complete picture of what you are learning. This also helps ensure you can understand upcoming material in the text.

6. Use a ruler or finger to follow along

If you have trouble keeping your place while reading, use a ruler or finger to make following along easier. This can also help students who have dyslexia and struggle with separating lines of text and sentences while reading.

7. Write down words you don't know

As you read the text, write down unfamiliar words. Ask / look these words up in a dictionary to learn what they mean. Then, make up find ways to use them in a sentence.

8. Discuss what you have just read

When you have finished reading, talk about what you have just read. What did you learn / are your thoughts? For longer reading materials, like novels for book reports, make discussion questions to talk about after each reading session.

9. Recap and summarize the main points

When talking about the material recap and summarize the main points. Explaining what you have learned in your own words helps ensure you understands what was read. It also helps relate the material to what you already know.

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10. Write down questions about what you don't understand

Make notes about what you don't understand while reading. When you have a question, do pause and reflect on what you have read. If you still have unanswered questions, take these to the teacher for extra help.

11. Use different formats

Some students just aren't natural readers—they learn better when they see, hear, or write things. If you struggle with reading, find a format that works better and incorporate that into reading sessions. This could include writing down the main points as you read or visualizing the material by drawing / constructing a mind map of what you are reading.

<https://www.oxfordlearning.com/how-to-improve-reading-comprehension/>

SQ3R Survey, Question, Read, Recall and Review

You may have used the following technique before but without naming it. SQ3R is a five-step method which help students construct meaning while reading. It requires questioning, predicting, setting a purpose for reading, and monitoring for confusion. SQ3R includes the following steps:

Survey

Look at the title. What do you already know / what do you want to know. What about the subheadings and opening sentences? These give a good guide about the text. Are there any diagrams or pictures? Read the first paragraph and the last paragraph or summary.

Question

Turn the title into a question. Write down any questions that come into your head as you survey the text. What about the headings? Turn those into questions. Write down unfamiliar words.

Read actively

Read it quickly to get a sense of what it is about. Next read it making notes of important points. As you read look for answers to your questions. Use the context to understand unfamiliar words.

Recall

Cover up the text or look away from the book and recall what you have just read. Recall the key points and answers to your questions either out loud or in writing. Re read the text for any unanswered questions.

Review

Go back to the main question and why you are reading the text. Answer this. Make notes of anything important you missed out in your original notes. Review any of your answers and questions. Discuss / summarise your reading.