

General Reading Tips

1. **Find a quiet place with minimal distractions.** Also make sure that the place is comfortable and well-lit.
2. **Be positive about your reading assignment.** By feeling positive about the fact that reading is challenging for you, you can overcome any reading difficulty. Also, you will be able to learn new reading techniques that will improve your comprehension and concentration.
3. **Try to develop a daily reading habit.** Divide your reading time between course readings and recreational readings whether it is from a newspaper, a magazine, a book, or from the internet. Reading not only improves your comprehension but also your language skills as a whole.
4. **Preview the reading assignment or text.** In order to get a general idea of the topic discussed in the text, read introductions, conclusions, summaries, titles, and subtitles.
5. **Be an active reader.** Annotate text, ask questions, highlight important ideas, and relate information to your knowledge.
6. **Do not read by focusing on understanding words.** Try to focus on understanding ideas rather than on understanding separate words. This doesn't mean that you can not look up words or think of certain key words. You can but not every single word.
7. **Guess the meaning of words using context clues.** In most sentences there will be other words, phrases, or sentences that will help you understanding certain vocabulary words.
8. **Keep a vocabulary notebook.** Write important vocabulary words, their meanings, part of speech, and any other important piece of information in a notebook dedicated for vocabulary.
9. **Take notes using your own language.** Do not copy ideas; restate them in a brief organized way.
10. **Evaluate and relate information to each other.** This will help discover if you have understood the material or not. If you feel you didn't get the writer's ideas, try to reread the passage as many times as you need.
11. **Write a short summary, outline, or draw a diagram of the information using your own words.** If you are able to do so, then this indicates that you have comprehended the material.