

GREATER LOWELL

Technical
High School



Parents Do Matter!

TYPES OF READING STRATEGIES

Strategies differ from reader to reader

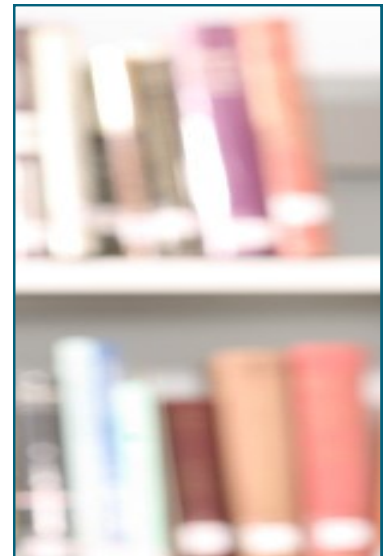
Reading strategies is the broad term used to describe the planned and explicit actions that help **readers** translate print to meaning. **Strategies** that improve decoding and **reading** comprehension skills benefit every student, but are essential for beginning **readers**, struggling **readers**, and English Language Learners.

Seven Strategies of Highly Effective Readers

Improve students' reading comprehension, look at these seven cognitive strategies of effective readers:

- 1) Activating
- 2) Inferring
- 3) Monitoring-Clarifying
- 4) Questioning
- 5) Searching-Selecting
- 6) Summarizing
- 7) Visualizing-Organizing

“Reading is important because,
if you can read,
you can learn anything
about everything and
everything about anything.”
-Tomie dePaola



Activating—“Priming the cognitive pump” in order to recall relevant prior knowledge and experiences from long-term memory in order to extract and construct meaning from text.

Inferring—Bringing together what is spoken (written) in the text, what is unspoken (unwritten) in the text, and what is already known by the reader in order to extract and construct meaning from the text.

Monitoring/Clarifying—Thinking about how and what one is reading, both during and after the act of reading, for purposes of determining if one is comprehending the text combined with the ability to clarify and fix up any mix-ups.

Questioning—Engaging- in learning dialogues with text (authors), peers, and teachers through: Self-Questioning, Question Generation, and Question Answering

Searching-Selecting—Searching a variety of sources in order to select appropriate information to answer questions, define words and terms, clarify misunderstandings, solve problems, or gather information.

Summarizing—Restating the meaning of text in one's own words — different words from those used in the original text.

Visualizing/Organizing—Constructing a mental image or graphic organizer for the purpose of extracting and constructing meaning from the text.



WHAT MAKES TEXTS DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND?

Most of your reading difficulties will be caused by a problem on the list below. Of course, when two or more of these problems happen together, your chances of understanding will be even smaller.

- the text has many unknown words
- the text has long, complicated sentences
- the text is about a topic you know nothing about
- the text is about a topic you find boring
- the text has small print, long paragraphs, no pictures
- the text has been badly written
- you are feeling tired
- you are distracted
- you don't know the important cohesion markers
- you don't know why you have been asked to read the text

“The more you read, the more things you will know.”

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE READING

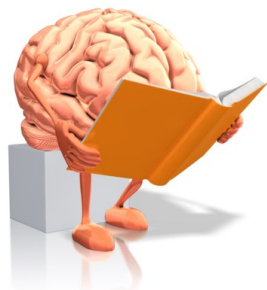
Outline on how to clear up confusion

1. Do not stop immediately but keep reading a bit.
2. Think whether it's important to understand.
3. Know that there are no easy ways to understand.
4. Study examples carefully.
5. Go slowly! Make mental images of the meanings.
6. Talk to yourself!
7. Look up important words.
8. Look at beginnings of sections.
9. Break down the puzzling passage into several parts.
10. Draw a diagram.
11. Try to figure out the overall framework.
12. Focus on the parts that you do understand.
13. Make a guess about the meaning of a puzzling part.

TIPS TO REMEMBER

- ⇒ Read with a purpose.
- ⇒ Skim first.
- ⇒ Get the reading mechanics right.
- ⇒ Be judicious in highlighting and note taking.
- ⇒ Think in pictures.
- ⇒ Rehearse as you go along.
- ⇒ Stay within your attention span and work to increase that span.
- ⇒ Rehearse again soon.

EFFECTIVE AND SIMPLE READING STRATEGIES TO HELP YOU READ MORE



BEFORE READING—ASK QUESTIONS

Before you start reading a book, you will have a basic idea of what the book is about. This allows you to ask yourself 3 simple questions before you start to read. They are:

- ◆ What do I already know?
- ◆ What more do I want to know?
- ◆ I wonder if...

The answers to these questions will give you a foundation to build on and something which you're looking to get out of the book. This means you're not just reading without an objective, but instead you're actively looking to learn something from the book.

DURING READING—TAKE SMALL PAUSES AND ASK MORE QUESTIONS

As you're reading, you need to take small and intermittent pauses to ensure that what you're reading is sticking. Ask yourself the following questions as you're reading.

- ◆ Does this make sense?
- ◆ How does this information connect to what I already know?
- ◆ What does the writer say about...?
- ◆ What does the writer mean about...?
- ◆ I still need to know more about...?

By asking yourself these questions as you read, you are constantly evaluating what's being said. By looking at what the author is explaining, as well as the meaning behind it, you will understand the thinking process more effectively. You are also continuing to look for more specific information in the upcoming text.

DURING READING—TAKE A LONGER PAUSE AFTER A DIFFICULT SECTION

You want to make sure you are fully understanding what is being said, so when you come across a particularly difficult part of the text, it's important to stop and do the following:

- ◆ Pause and think about what was discussed
- ◆ Break the text into smaller chunks
- ◆ Look up words which you didn't understand
- ◆ Build yourself a short summary of what you read
- ◆ Discuss what you read with someone

These steps will make sure you have fully processed and understood this section before you move on.

DURING READING—VISUALIZE

To better understand what you're reading, it's important to make visual representations of what is being discussed by:

- ◆ Picturing what...might look like
- ◆ Creating a mental image of a system or a process working

This will help you remember not only what you read and understood, but how it looks as it is functioning.

DURING READING—MAKE CONNECTIONS

A critical part of learning and understanding something new is to connect it with pieces of information that you already understand. You will already know about certain parts of what you're reading from previous texts, your own personal experience and other people so you will be able to add to that base.

DURING READING—TAKE GOOD NOTES

The best way to take notes during reading is:

- ◆ Look for the main ideas and focus on those
- ◆ Use words you understand
- ◆ Make the notes as brief as possible
- ◆ Use simple headings and sub headings to organize your notes
- ◆ Constantly review, add and revise as necessary while you continue to read

AFTER READING—FIND THE MAIN IDEAS

You've completed the book, made effective notes, took time to reflect and understand as you read and asked yourself good questions as you read. Now that the book is done, you need to think about the important ideas in the book.

Ask yourself the following:

- ◆ What was the most important thing you remember about the book?
- ◆ What was the main message of the book?
- ◆ What do the ideas in this book relate to?
- ◆ What could be the biases of this book?
- ◆ What did this book leave out?

*“Today a Reader,
Tomorrow a Leader.”*

Margaret Fuller

TRICKS FOR REMEMBERING EVERYTHING YOU READ

Take Notes on the Page

- Read with a pencil
- Underline sentences you find confusing, interesting, or important

Ask Yourself Questions About the Material

Interact with the text by asking yourself questions as you go along. For example:

- If you're reading a **textbook** - ask yourself, "What is the main idea of this section?"
- If you're reading **fiction**, ask yourself, "What are the motives of the character?"
- If you could **re-write** this reading, ask yourself, "What would your version be like?"

Skim the Text First

Skimming is a key strategy for retaining information. The idea here isn't to skip the whole reading process. Instead, you'll want to skim the text for:

- important topics
- Keywords beforehand so you know what to expect when you actually dig into the material.

Read out Loud

- Reading aloud to children helps them develop and improve literacy skills—reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Since students listen on a higher level than they read, listening to other readers stimulates growth and understanding of vocabulary and language patterns.
- The act of reading and speaking text **aloud** is a more effective way to remember information than reading it silently or just hearing it **read aloud**. The dual effect of both speaking and hearing helps encode the memory more strongly.

Read on Paper

- E-readers are convenient tools for when you want to bring a ton of books on vacation and for downloading stories in an instant.
- But research suggests that they could also undermine the strength of your memories.
- One study found that, when people read the same short story in a paperback or on a Kindle, the paperback readers were better able to remember the story's chronology.
- A lead study found that that's possibly because the piles of pages in your hands creates a "tactile sense of progress" that you don't get from a Kindle.
- Another research found that high-school students performed better on a test of reading comprehension when they read a text in print instead of on a computer screen.

Become Familiar with the Topic First

Gaining some background knowledge before you dive into a particular text.

The more you understand about a particular subject he/she writes, the more 'hooks' keep the facts in there, presumably, that's because you're able to make more associations between the new information and what you already know.



Reading skills and strategies most crucial for students to learn as they improve their comprehension.

Monitoring—Comprehension—Actively keeping track of one's thinking and adjusting strategies to the text at hand.

Visualizing—Making mental pictures or sensory images as one reads.

Connecting—Linking what's in the text to personal experience, world events, or other texts.

Questioning—Actively wondering about the text, watching for uncertainties in it, and interrogating the text and the author

Inferring—Predicting, hypothesizing, interpreting, and drawing conclusions about the text.

Determine Importance—Making judgments and weighing the values of the text or the author.

Synthesizing—Retelling and/or summarizing a text and remembering information from it.