

STRATEGIES FOR READING ACADEMIC TEXTS



Try this with any text you need to read:

Before reading

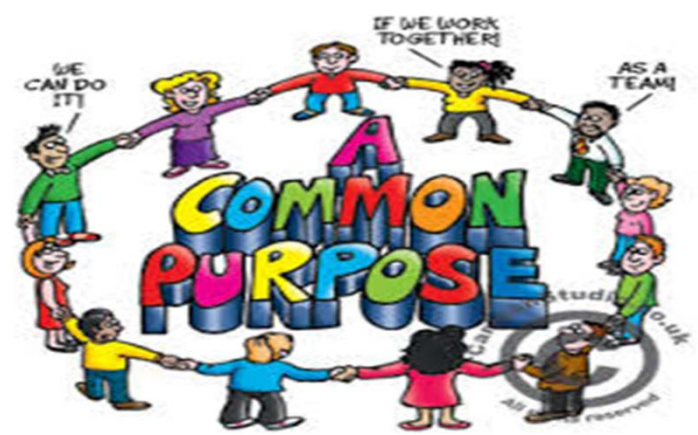
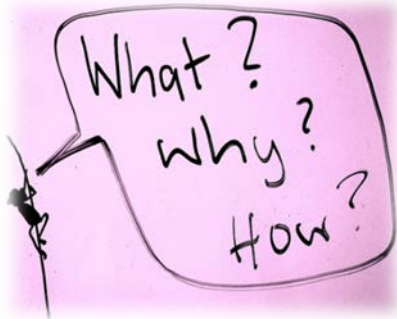
1. Think about your reasons for reading the text:

- background information or detailed information
- writer's views
- discussion
- essay on this subject
 - **Each reason will influence the way you read e.g. quickly or slowly, looking for fact or opinion.**

2. Look at the title, headline, any sub-headings, photos or illustrations.

- Use these to predict what the text will be about - the topic.





3. Think about what you already know on this topic.

Ask questions:

- What? (what is the picture/title?)
- Why? (why do we learn about it?)
- How? (how is it discusses?)





While Reading

1. Survey the text:

- read the first and last paragraphs and the beginning and final sentences of the other paragraphs.

2. Identify your purpose for reading.

- specific information  read the part where you think the information will be.
- general idea of the whole text  read the whole text.

In both cases ignore words or sections you don't immediately understand.

- ❑ You should now have a general idea of what the text is about and if it is going to be useful for you 😊



3. Write down in 1 or 2 sentences:

- what you think the main ideas are

Look for these Words

mostly about
another title
important details

Ask Yourself

What is the passage mostly about?

Follow These Steps

1

Read the title and look at the pictures to make a prediction about the text.



2

As you read, identify the important and unimportant details.



3

Use the important details to create the main idea.

4. Do a second more careful reading, marking any new words that are important for your understanding.

Repeated words/ synonyms may help you a lot!

- Check on the main idea and revise what you wrote if necessary.

practice

Makes

~~practice~~ perfect!



The rain forest is home to many creatures. Monkeys, toucans and macaws live in the rain forest. Blue Morpho butterflies and anteaters also live in the rain forest.



- A) Sloths and tapirs are other creatures that live in the rain forest.
- B) The rain forest is home to many creatures.
- C) Monkeys, toucans and macaws live in the rain forest.

Soccer players learn many skills when playing soccer. Soccer players learn how to dribble and pass the ball. They also learn how to control the ball so they can eventually score. Most importantly, soccer players learn how to work together with their teammates.



- A) They also learn how to control the ball so they can eventually score.
- B) Soccer players learn how to dribble.
- C) Soccer players learn many skills when playing soccer.

There are many fun things to do at the beach. Swimming is one thing that can be done at the beach. Snorkeling is another thing that can be enjoyed. Playing beach volleyball can be a lot of fun. It is also fun to look for shells. Some people simply like to sunbathe.



- (A) There are many fun things to do at the beach.
- (B) It is also fun to look for shells.
- (C) Some people simply like to sunbathe.



Vocabulary

- ❑ try to guess the meaning using word function, and word form (**PREFIXES/SUFFIXES**)

Ex: Universities around the **globe** need to find solutions to similar **educational** problems, so **educators** sometimes meet at **global** conferences.

☐ Use linkers to help you

- ☐ Positive or negative meaning!! Would help you a lot if you do not need an exact meaning of the word.**

Ex:

Difficult sentences

- Divide the sentences where there are connectives or markers.**
- What do the linkers mean? How do they link the ideas?** (reasons/ opposite ideas/ additional information ...etc)
- Underline reference words.** What do they refer to?

T

Theory

I



into



P

Practice

EXERCISE:

A new hearing device uses a magnet to hold the detachable sound-processing portion in place. Like other aids, it converts sound into vibrations. But it is unique in that it can transmit the vibrations directly to the magnet and then to the inner ear. This produces a clearer sound. The new device will not help all hearing-impaired people - only those with a hearing loss caused by infection or some other problem in the middle ear. It will probably help no more than 20 percent of all people with hearing problems. Those people who have persistent ear infections, however, should find relief and restored hearing with the new device.

- **A new hearing device** uses a magnet to hold the detachable sound-processing portion in place. Like other aids, **it** converts sound into vibrations. But **it** is unique in that **it** can transmit the vibrations directly to the magnet and then to the inner ear. This produces a clearer sound. **The new device** will not help all hearing-impaired people - only those with a hearing loss caused by infection or some other problem in the middle ear. **It** will probably help no more than 20 percent of all people with hearing problems. Those people who have persistent ear infections, however, should find relief and restored hearing with the new device.

- **What key word does this paragraph consistently repeat?**
 - A new hearing device.
- **What's the main idea of this paragraph?**
 - A new hearing device is now available for some hearing-impaired people.

(wording can be different! It is

OK

as long as it conveys a similar message 😊

How to Avoid Common Main Idea Mistakes

- **KEY WORDS: only, some, all, most, few.. Etc**
- **Mistake 1:** Choosing an Answer That's Too Narrow
- **Mistake 2:** Choosing an Answer That's Too Broad
- **Mistake 3:** Choosing an Answer That's Complex, But Opposite