

HOW TO IMPROVE EFL STUDENTS' READING SKILLS

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Ingliz tilini o'qitish metodikasi va ta'lim texnologiyalari
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***Abstract.** In this article is described how to improve reading skills learning foreign language. This article aims to share ideas about reading skills and reading for pleasure to see what we can learn from what has already been done and written, to share insights from recent research projects.*

***Keywords.** Comprehension skills, development of reading, pre reading strategies, organize the materials.*

Reading skill refers to the ability to understand written text. It is advisable to develop this skill at early age of schooling. When students comprehend or understand written text, and combine their understanding with prior knowledge, they are able to perform the following three reading comprehension skills.

The development of these reading skills is vital to students' development, and a sheer volume of studies has demonstrated a link between competency in reading and overall attainment in college (literacy attainment and other outcomes). According to OCED's report on reading for change, program for International Student Assessment (PISA): "Reading for pleasure is more important for student's educational success than their family's socioeconomic status." Besides, there are some other key benefits of engaging student in reading from the early age. This is so because the development of reading is a key to future success both in college and in life. By supporting students to read in their leisure time at every age, teachers can help to ensure that students are equipped with the necessary skills to succeed in later life [1].

Reading is an important skill for success in any facet of life. Reading is more than simply picking out words on a page; it is a process of critical thinking which involves evaluating ideas and applying them to everyday situations. Basic reading skills include vocabulary acquisition, pre reading strategies, textual

comprehension, organizational skills and response techniques. Mastering basic reading skills enables a reader to increase their reading speed, comprehension, and overall vocabulary. This is especially true for readers new to the English language who will find that utilizing ESL reading strategies will better help them understand what they've read.

One of the most important aspects of acquiring reading skills is increasing vocabulary. An important basic skill in reading is recognizing words. To acquire a larger vocabulary the reader should practice word recognition using sight words and high-frequency word use lists such as the Dolch Basic Sight Vocabulary or Fry's List of 1000 High-Frequency Words. These words are practiced with flash cards, word walls, and worksheets. A person can improve his vocabulary also by working crossword puzzles and playing board games such as Scrabble. Games and other nontraditional teaching methods may be especially helpful for readers who have a reading disability or other learning challenge as it may help to look at words out of the context of a book or a newspaper to understand what they mean [2].

Pre-reading strategies include taking the time to become acquainted with the text before jumping into the actual main body of the text. Readers should read the title, background information, author information and subheadings within the text. Readers should also note any highlighted or boldfaced words as well as captions under photographs. Previewing any pictures or sidebars that accompany the text also help the reader to connect with the material before actually beginning to read the text.

Another basic skill that is essential to reading is the ability to organize the material. This helps in improving reading comprehension and in increasing reading speed. Ways of organizing the information include highlighting key points, making notes in the margins and preparing an outline of the text. Training oneself to organize key points while reading aids in comprehension and improves reading speed [3].

Good readers increase their vocabulary every time they read and are able to recall these words when they see them again. They begin by developing a sight

word vocabulary. Sight words are words that are frequently found often in common speech and books, such as “the,” “is,” “were,” “was” and “said.” Generally, these words cannot be sounded out, so readers have to memorize them. Knowledge of these words is essential because they can be found in any book.

An important skill in reading is learning to comprehend the main idea of a text. This is accomplished by first determining the thesis statement of the text. The thesis statement, or topic sentence, tells the reader what the text is about; it is the most important sentence in the text. 6 Sometimes the main idea is implied rather than directly stated in a sentence and the reader must learn how to infer (make an educated guess) as to what the main idea of the text is in order to comprehend the material as a whole.[4]

Consider getting a “study buddy” or study group. Be careful to keep focused on what you need to do and you may find that by sharing not each other, you can increase your ability to understand key points in texts. Finally, if you continue to find reading difficult, remember Reading at university level is difficult! However, if you put in the time and effort you may start to enjoy the challenge.

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