ENGLISH FOR BIOLOGY

Rizka Apriani Putri, M.Sc
Jurdik Biologi, FMIPA UNY
rizka_apriani@uny.ac.id
2015
READING COMPREHENSION
Mastery of Language Skills
Thematic approaches and combined strategies
Repetitive practice in each level
Reading is the **KEY** to learning
Reading is the most important skill in English language from other language skills in acquiring language. If students are good in reading, they will be good in other language skills (writing, speaking, and listening). For this reason teachers of English language should focus on this skill.
Reading Skills by Level of Comprehension

- **Applied Level**: Taking what was said (literal) and then what was meant by what was said (interpretive) and then extend (apply) the concepts or ideas beyond the situation.

- **Interpretive Level**: Reading between the lines to determine what is meant by what is stated; questions asked are open-ended, thought-provoking questions like why, what if and how.

- **Literal Level**: Surface understanding; Common questions used to illicit this type of thinking are who, what, when, and where questions.
READ
READ READ READ
READ READ READ
READ READ READ
READ READ READ
READ
READ
READ
READ
5 minute self test

What do you find difficult about reading at university? Tick the boxes below:

- Finding enough time and energy
- Maintaining concentration
- Improving speed
- Managing vocabulary
- Selecting what to focus on in texts
- Understanding new, theoretical or detailed information
- Identifying main points and arguments
- Evaluating evidence
- Identifying similarities and differences between texts
- Reading texts that assume background knowledge & experience
- Reading different types of text (case studies, reports, literature reviews etc.)
What you read at university
You may be expected to read a wide range of texts that include the course reading pack, lecture slides, books, journal articles, internet articles, newspapers, research reports, literature reviews, case studies and strategic plans.

Why you read at university
You may read to: prepare for lectures and tutorials, review information addressed in lectures and tutorials, conduct research for assignments, or revise for exams.

What reading abilities you need
Beyond being able to simply understand texts, you will need to critique them, evaluate them, compare and contrast them, and apply the information you find useful from them.
Effective reading: general advice

The following advice may seem obvious, but is important.

• Consider where you read. Always read in a well-lit and quiet place that is free of distractions, and don’t get into the habit of reading uni materials in bed! (unless you want to go to sleep).
• Don’t vocalise as you read. This will slow you down, it won’t help concentration, and it will lead to bad reading approaches.
• Read at times when you can concentrate, and maintain concentration by taking regular short breaks, perhaps every 30 or 45 minutes.
• Set yourself reading tasks (10 pages, 1 chapter, 1 section of a chapter etc).
• Remember that reading often takes longer than you expect and you often need to go beyond set texts. Give yourself enough time!
Skimming is a reading technique that provides understanding of the whole text without reading it from word to word. It involves discovering the main ideas of a text by reading first and last paragraphs and topic sentences, and paying attention to other details on the page like titles, bold type or italics, photograph captions, etc.
Botany, the study of plants, occupies a peculiar position in the history of human knowledge. For many thousands of years it was the one field of awareness about which humans had anything more than the vaguest of insights. It is impossible to know today just what our Stone Age ancestors knew about plants, but from what we can observe of pre-industrial societies that still exist, a detailed learning of plants and their properties must be extremely ancient. This is logical. Plants are the basis of the food pyramid for all living things, even for other plants. They have always been enormously important to the welfare of peoples, not only for food, but also for clothing, weapons, tools, dyes: medicines, shelter, and a great many other purposes. Tribes living today in the jungles of the Amazon recognize literally hundreds of plants and know many properties of each. To them botany, as such, has no name and is probably not even recognized as a special branch of "Knowledge at all."
• What is the main idea of this paragraph?

→ Don’t read the whole paragraph to find the main idea
Scanning is a reading technique that one uses to find specific information without reading the whole text. It involves looking down and around a page quickly and efficiently searching for important words, facts or phrases to find specific information.
• Why did the author mention “Amazon” in the passage?

→ Find the word “Amazon” first then read the sentence that contains this word. (You might also need to read one or two sentence(s) before and after the specific sentence)
Botany, the study of plants, occupies a peculiar position in the history of human knowledge. For many thousands of years it was the one field of awareness about which humans had anything more than the vaguest of insights. It is impossible to know today just what our Stone Age ancestors knew about plants, but from what we can observe of pre-industrial societies that still exist, a detailed learning of plants and their properties must be extremely ancient. This is logical. Plants are the basis of the food pyramid for all living things, even for other plants. They have always been enormously important to the welfare of peoples, not only for food, but also for clothing, weapons, tools, dyes: medicines, shelter, and a great many other purposes. Tribes living today in the jungles of the Amazon recognize literally hundreds of plants and know many properties of each. To them botany, as such, has no name and is probably not even recognized as a special branch of "Knowledge at all."
In-depth reading

This is the most essential of all reading skills. It involves reading a text thoroughly in order to comprehend the ideas and arguments it contains. In-depth reading is consequently much slower than skim reading, and you may find that you need to read certain sections of a difficult text more than once. When reading in-depth it is useful to:

- read the opening paragraphs and conclusion first. This will help you to digest the intention and conclusion of the writer prior to a closer reading of the text.
- go back to the beginning, and read through the whole text, marking out and noting:
  - key words and phrases;
  - ideas, facts, and data you think are important;
  - the structure of the argument.
- make sure you understand the writer’s main ideas and arguments, and the overall message of the text.
A READER LIVES A THOUSAND LIVES BEFORE HE DIES. THE MAN WHO NEVER READS LIVES ONLY ONE.

GEORGE RR MARTIN
The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you will go.
"You can find magic wherever you look.
Sit back and relax, all you need is a book."
~ Dr. Seuss
No matter how busy you may think you are, you must find time for READING or surrender yourself to self-chosen ignorance.

- Confucius
KEEP CALM AND LOVE READING