



INCREASING ENGLISH LANGUAGE KNOWLEDGE FROM READING COMPREHENSION EXERCISES

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Article history:	Abstract:
Received: 20 th December 2023 Accepted: 14 th January 2024 Published: 20 th February 2024	Reading comprehension skills that allow students to process others' writing so they can understand underlying messages and make insightful connections. These skills are extremely important for students' successful development. Learning interactive and fun methods for helping students engage with their educational advancements.
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We all need to read in our own language, whether from books, documents, computers, mobile devices, signs or billboards. Students of English need to read these things in English, too. But reading also helps them to learn and acquire English. We can divide reading into extensive and intensive reading.

Extensive reading is one of the best ways for students to get comprehensible input they receive, the better their English gets.

But at the English lessons we often get students to read intensively in class. This means that they will look at a short reading text and do various exercises based on it. Texts for more advanced students are usually longer than for students at lower levels. Intensive reading is often used to train students in different reading skills, such as reading for gist (getting the general meaning from a text) or reading for specific information.

The main aim for a gist task is to develop the students' abilities to either skim for the main idea (of a reading text) or to listen for the main idea (of an audio/video clip). So, you want to make sure the activity matches its aims i.e. you want to give them an activity that focuses on the main idea as opposed to more specific information or details.

Having the students focus on the main idea first gives them important context that they can then use to understand the text in more depth i.e. further detail, vocabulary words, or a grammar point. Here are some common type of gist activities you can use to design your lessons.

Scan the article as quickly as you can and tick the information that is mentioned. Do not read it carefully word by word.

With fast food chains becoming more popular and people's attempts to make meals more quickly and cheaply, livestock is now raised differently than it was in days gone by. Many domestic animals will never

breathe fresh air outside nor eat off the land. Chickens that live indoors their entire lives are fed grains which include antibiotics to help them grow faster until they are deemed large enough to butcher. Cattle farms are not what they used to be either. Cows usually start life in fields before they are sold to the meat production industry. Huge factory-like structures can house thousands of these large animals, but this can have huge implications for food safety because such cattle live in their own manure. The cattle are given growth hormones in their ears to help them grow faster. Once they are sufficiently fattened up, they are sent to slaughterhouses, where they are processed into cuts of meat and what's left is sent to the grinder. After that, the processed meat is made into burger patties and shipped to fast food restaurants for everyone to enjoy.

- 1 the first fast food restaurant
- 2 animals kept for profit
- 3 a domestic fowl
- 4 feeding methods
- 5 a building to house animals
- 6 a hygiene issue
- 7 a health problem related to the ears
- 8 a machine that minces meat

Match each verb with a phrase to make expressions.

**1 stir 2 get 3 tingle 4 upset 5 whip up
a hot and bothered b the apple cart c a quick meal d the imagination e your taste buds
Read the paragraph and circle the correct words.**

Industrial farming methods are commonplace, but the philosophy of organic farming could be about to change the way many of us eat. Consumers have **(1) dangerous / grave** concerns about eating fruit and vegetables that have been grown with the use of pesticides and chemical **(2) fertilisers / additives**.



The use of chemicals might make the crops immune to **(3) epidemics / infestations**, but consumers have started to worry about the **(4) adverse / modified** effects that such farming techniques might have. Organic farming could offer a solution to this problem. Farmers are able to cultivate **(5) abundant / plenty** crops using natural fertilisers. The same is true for farms involved in the meat and **(6) dairy / milk** product industries. Farmers can use organic feed for their **(7) livestock / meat** instead of giving them harmful processed foods. Organic farming might also avoid some of the **(8) hygiene / wellbeing** issues that are connected to industrial farming, as well as giving people better quality meat to choose from. Reading comprehension goes beyond understanding the words on a page. Effective reading comprehension entails identifying the main idea of a passage, understanding vocabulary in context, making valid inferences from the text, and discerning the author's purpose. Candidates must use analytical thinking and analytical reasoning skills to device the correct answers.

Reading activity is "a complex cognitive process of decoding symbols in order to construct or derive meaning (reading comprehension). It is a means of language acquisition, of communication, and of sharing information and ideas"

There are several reading strategies that you can begin implementing today to improve your reading comprehension skills. The more you practice, the better you will become at understanding what you are reading. The following are seven simple strategies you can use to work on your comprehension skills:

1. Improve your vocabulary

Knowing what the words you are reading mean can improve your ability to comprehend the meaning of the text. To improve your vocabulary, you can:

Take an online vocabulary quiz to assess your current level of vocabulary understanding

Use flashcards to quiz yourself on words you don't know once or twice a week

Make a point to use newly learned words in verbal and written communication

Read as much as possible to improve your ability to guess what a word means in a certain context

Make a list of unfamiliar words as you read and look them up in the dictionary

2. Come up with questions about the text you are reading

Asking questions about what you are reading can help improve your reading comprehension by allowing you to become invested in the text. It can also broaden your overall understanding of what you are reading by

enabling you to explore themes, motifs and other components of text that you otherwise wouldn't inquire about. The following are examples of questions you could pose as you read:

Why did the author begin the book at that location?

What kind of relationship do these two characters share?

What do we know about the main character up to this point in the book?

Are there any themes that have consistently come up throughout the book?

The more specific your questions, the more likely you will gain further insight into the text and its meaning.

Use context clues

Using context clues is a great way to understand what you are reading even if you don't know all the vocabulary being used. Context clues can be found in the words and sentences surrounding the word that you are not familiar with. The use of context clues, you can focus on the key phrases or ideas in a sentence and deduce the main idea of a sentence or paragraph based on this information. You can also look for nearby words that are synonyms or antonyms of the word you don't know.

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