



Reading Tips

It can be difficult to read in English, but it really is worth the effort! It is one of the best ways to improve your level. In order to help you, we have prepared some tips to get you reading!

1) Before you start reading a book, read a summary of the story first. As you will have a clearer idea of what is going on in the story, you will be able to follow it much better.

2) Watch the film. We know this is controversial! This film is usually better than the book! However, if a film is available it is a good idea to watch it first. Like reading a summary, you will have a clearer idea of what is going on, and images make things a lot clearer. Remember to watch the film in original version with subtitles though!

3) Don't look up every word! Language always needs to be looked at in context. If you keep stopping to check a word every two seconds in a dictionary, you are never going to see the bigger picture. It is also depressing as you feel like you don't know anything! So, only underline the words which stop you from understanding. If you more or less understand, move on.

The exception to this is if you are using an e-reader with integrated dictionary. In this case, as it is very fast, it is OK to use them. But don't record every word, as you won't remember them!

4) If you have to check 5 words in a sentence then the level of the book is too high for you. In this case try a different book, or look for a graded reader. These are simplified versions of classic books.

5) Try to understand words in context rather than always using a dictionary; this will improve your reading speed. Here are the steps to follow

- What is the context of the sentence?
- What is the word function (noun, adjective, verb, etc.)?
- If there is a prefix or suffix, does this tell you any information?
- Is it surrounded by positive or negative words?
- Are there any linkers which give you information (e.g. if the sentence starts with "however", you know it is contrasting the previous statement)

6) Choose a time of day when you are alert and able to read! 1 in the morning after a 12 hours shift is not a good time to read!

7) Read EVERY DAY! Reading is a skill and it needs to be developed over time. Imagine running a marathon but you only train one week before – YOU CAN'T DO IT! It's the same with reading. Spend 15 minutes reading every day and you will start to notice a big difference.

8) ENJOY IT! Reading in a foreign language is an amazing experience! It's going to open doors to millions of adventures, different cultures, ways of thinking, and new friends!