

Active Reading Strategies

Reading comprehension is more effective if a variety of reading strategies are used. The following approaches will help to maximise the benefits you will gain from your reading time.

Preview

Previewing means quickly surveying the material before you actually start to read it. Refer to the first stages of SQ3R.

Ask questions before, during and after reading

Asking questions and seeking answers will help you to keep focussed, assist information recall and reflection about what you have just read. Use *what, why, which, when, where, who* and *how* to help write your questions.

Predict before and during reading

Predicting means to make a guess on what will happen based on what you know and what you have previewed. Your predictions might be right or they might be wrong. Active readers stop often and check their predictions as they read. If your prediction is not correct you can always change it! As you read, you gather information. As you gather information your brain is busy evaluating, making connections, checking predictions and changing predictions if needed.

Compare and contrast

Comparing and contrasting means to look for information that is similar and/or different to what you are reading. This helps you to understand things better as you read.

Find the main idea and supporting details in paragraphs

The sentence with the main idea is called a topic sentence. This is usually found in the first sentence in the paragraph, but not always. The following sentences support the topic sentence.

Make Inferences

Making inferences means thinking beyond the text. It involves thinking about information that is *suggested* by the text, but **not stated** or **given directly** in the text. Making **inferences** is another reading skill that active readers practise when they read.