

TEXT 1:

Improving your Reading Ability

To improve your reading habits, you must understand the characteristics of a good reader. First, he can concentrate. Because he is rapidly seeking out and categorizing main ideas and supporting details as he reads, he is able to complete an assignment without losing his way, without losing interest, without being distracted by random sights or sounds or thoughts.

Second, the good reader reads rapidly. True, he does not read every piece of material at the same rate, but whether he is reading a newspaper, a novel, the instructions accompanying a do-it-yourself kit, or a chapter in a physics text, his rate is relatively fast. He has learned to read for ideas rather than words one at a time.

Next, because the good reader is reading for ideas and moving through the material quickly; he is able to recognize and understand the elements that form any piece of prose—the author's general theme, and the details that support the ideas. Thus he is able to comprehend the material with a minimum of effort and a maximum of interest.

Finally, the good reader has at his command several special skills which he can apply to reading problems as they occur. For the college student, the most helpful of these skills include taking advantage of the various aids to understand that most textbooks provide and skim reading for a general survey.

(Day, J.E. 1961. In *Study Skills for Students of English as a Second Language*, 1970, p.136).

Reading Assignments

- **Read the text carefully then do the following:**
 - a) Skim the text and give its general idea.
 - b) Scan the text and list three qualities of good readers.
 - c) Suggest other characteristics for good reading that are not mentioned by the author.
 - d) Do agree that good readers are successful learners? Justify.
 - e) Supply another title to the text.
 - f) Summarize the text.