

# Improving Reading Comprehension

Before Reading	During Reading	After Reading
<p><b>Build a Foundation</b> Sometimes the best introduction to a new subject is a shorter, simpler presentation. Begin with an alternative text, such as an encyclopedia entry or critic's review.</p> <p><b>Preview</b> Flip through the entire assignment before beginning. For textbooks, begin with the chapter summary. Read the chapter review. As when studying a map, look for key landmarks along your journey.</p> <p><b>Generate Questions</b> Take time to wonder before you begin. Then seek answers to specific questions as you read, particularly those that start with "What....?" and "Why....?"</p>	<p><b>Develop Vocabulary</b> Use dictionaries and glossaries. Learn word roots. Decode meaning through context. Add new vocabulary to a personal dictionary; review these new terms often and incorporate them into your everyday communication.</p> <p><b>Stop to Summarize</b> Make a habit of condensing and re-stating key points and passages in your own words. This can be done aloud or in writing. Use section breaks and the ends of pages as your cues to stop.</p> <p><b>List and Answer Questions</b> Anything unclear? Make a note and be sure to follow-up later with another resource, your professor or a peer.</p>	<p><b>Create Concept Maps</b> Generate a simple, visual framework that differentiates main ideas, supporting details, and examples, shows relationships, or clarifies hierarchy or order.</p> <p><b>Write a Summary</b> Same idea as above. Capture the gist of what you read in a simple outline, or in a few paragraphs.</p> <p><b>Take a Quiz</b> If your text book has quizzes or review questions at the end of chapters, complete them! This is a great way to assess how well you retained the chapter content.</p> <p><b>Collaborate</b> Meet with a classmate to discuss highlights, compare notes, address points of confusion, brainstorm test questions, and stay motivated.</p>



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