



## HOW CAN STUDENTS IMPROVE THEIR READING COMPREHENSION SKILL?

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### **Abstract**

Reading is an interactive process in which readers construct a meaningful representation of a text using effective reading strategies. Effective reading strategies are considered as significant skills that have received the special focus on students' reading comprehension proficiency. In this paper, the researchers define the term reading comprehension, explain the types of reading, declare models of reading process, state theories of reading comprehension, review the effective strategies for reading comprehension, and finally mention findings of learners' reading strategies and their reading comprehension proficiency. The review of literature indicates that reading strategies play a significant role in improving the students' reading comprehension skill.

**Keywords:** *reading comprehension, kinds, models, theories, strategies*

There a lot of strategies for reading comprehension. These strategies are explained in detail in this section.

#### ✓ **Activating and Using Background Knowledge**

In this strategy, readers activate their background knowledge and apply it to aid them comprehend what they are reading. This knowledge consists of individuals' experiences with the world together with their concepts for how written text work, involving word recognition, print concepts, word meaning, and how the text is formed. Schema theory is very important in comprehension process.

#### ✓ **Generating and Asking Questions**

In this strategy, readers ask themselves pertinent questions in reading the text. This strategy assists readers to combine information, recognizer main ideas, and summarize information. Asking appropriate questions permits successful readers to concentrate on the most important of a text. Creating relevant questions helps good readers to concentrate on difficulties with comprehension and take the necessary actions to solve those problems.

#### ✓ **Visualizing Readers**



Visualizing Readers can make mental picture of a text to comprehend processes they face during reading. This skill shows that a reader perceives a text. Readers who form a mental image as they read are better able to remember what they have read than those who do not image (Pressley, 1976). Visualizing is very important when it is used for narrative texts. When readers read narrative texts, they can easily understand what is happening by visualizing the place, personalities, or operations of a plan. It can also be used for the reading of expository texts. Readers visualizing steps in a process or stages in a happening or forming an image that help them to recall some abstract ideas or significant names (Gambrell & Bales, 1986).

#### ✓ **Comprehension Monitoring**

In this strategy, readers have the ability to know when they comprehend what they read, when they do not perceive, and to apply suitable strategies to make better their understanding. Successful readers know and check their thought processes as they read. Strategies that successful readers use to improve their understanding are called “fix-up” strategies. Particular repair strategies involve rereading, reading ahead, explaining the words by looking them up in a, or asking someone for assistance (Paris, Wasik, & Turner, 1991). Successful readers try to use different strategies to make meaning as they read. They do not use similar strategies; instead, they like to expand and practice those strategies that are beneficial to them. Moreover, they are very flexible in the application of their strategies, they change from strategy to strategy, and they apply various strategies with different types of texts (Paris, Wasik, & Turner, 1991). The important point here is that successful readers can make good decisions about which strategies to apply and when to use them. A lot of students can gain from explicit instruction that teaches them to apply particular strategies for understanding a text. The other point is that particular comprehension strategies can be taught and learned and that their conscious use can help readers to ameliorate their comprehension (National Reading Panel, 2000)

### **CONCLUSIONS**

The findings of this study showed that reading strategies have a great impact on the students' reading comprehension ability. Students are not just passive receivers of information but they are active makers of meaning. Teachers have a big responsibility to motivate their students in reading these materials, should be very sensitive to their learners' comprehension difficulties, and should help their learners to modify their views towards reading and have positive attitudes towards their reading activities so that they can better understand the different texts



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