

READING, AS ONE OF KEY FACTORS FOR HUMAN PROGRESS

Fotima Matmusayeva
English Language Teacher
The Department of World Languages Kokand University

Annotation: Many individuals often face to trouble with reading. Reading well takes a while, persistence, and training! The most significant matter to figure out is the purpose of your reading: looking at directions to build a toy house and reading a textbook are not the same thing. At the university, students have to deal with a heavy load of reading materials, often involving tough subjects and terms. Therefore, students need to brush up on their reading comprehension skills. This article discusses the importance of reading as a skill and suggests some reading strategies for students.

Key words: Reading, society, understanding, fictional books, novels, strategies, methods, technological advancement, attention, learning by heart, dedication of teachers, reading materials, passion, time management.

While learning another language, understanding a new concept or trying to discover new things for us, we may often face to reading. In fact, we interpret the world by reading. From the time we are able to add letters together to form a meaning, we open a vast universe of new form of imagination. Reading appeals humans all times and I would argue that it's going to keep this value for eternity. Reading offers us to see the world the way other people see and interpret, go through life of book characters as if in reality, travel and see the world without changing places, develop critical thinking and analyzing matters in different perspectives and so on.

As a language teacher, I have boundless ideas to talk about reading, its significance in world's progress, how it shapes one's imagination or changes their thoughts thoroughly, how it is undeniably interrelated to the constant evolution of the society.

I am personally passionate about reading from my early childhood. This love led me to read hundreds of fictional, historical, autobiographical books, touching novels, heart melting poems. Now, I am proud to say that reading unquestionably widened my outlook. My perception of the world sharpened and my lexicon enriched. I travelled through different times, discovered various cultures and traditions, lived ups and downs of the life of novel characters of the young and old by reading. This regular activity immensely boosted my language skills, I can say confidently. Mostly, I read books in English, or in Japanese if they are haikus – poems consisting three lines. I enjoy and feel fulfilment while reading.

I teach at the university and I work with the students of different interests. Astonishingly, they all have deep love for reading, in various perspectives and topics, of course. If the teacher directs the students according to their interests, finds the flow to their hearts, I consider, students will find reading as an enjoyable activity rather than accepting it as a must do task. In the era of technological advancement, phones, easy to use applications or electronic games grabbed most of the attention of the students even during classes. For some of them, whether they gain new knowledge from the lesson or not is in supreme indifference. Therefore, I guess, selfless dedication of teachers and appropriately chosen reading materials could make lessons more intriguing and preferable way to pull students from the hurricane of modern applications and gadgets.

Some university students struggle to keep up with their reading assignments since they lack ample reading comprehension skills. Always hoping for the best, there are several ways to improving reading skills which can be implemented instantly until they become a reading habit.

Reading and comprehension skills have an impact on all subjects and a student's academic performance. Even for students who have strong computational skills but are struggling with reading comprehension, it can be hard to solve a word problem. Meanwhile, students who want to excel in science classes need to apply strategies on how to improve college reading skills since the subject delves into research, which can demand many hours of reading and comprehending scientific concepts, theories, and data.

Moreover, literacy and reading performance has a direct impact on graduation rates. Indicators start to show as early as primary education as revealed in a study by the American Educational Research Association. It stated that students who cannot read on grade level by the time they reach 3rd grade are four times less likely to graduate by age 19 compared to their peers who do read proficiently by that time (Sparks, 2011).

Based on these findings, we can see how there is a strong relationship between reading and comprehension skills and school completion. It is imperative to learn ways to improve reading skills if a student wants to achieve academic success.

First, reading the introduction can help to have a clearer idea of the purpose of the material. When surveying assigned reading or book, prereading questions, such as what is the main topic of the reading material, should be looked through. Taking notes also help. We may see it from Benjamin Franklin when he said that you should never read a book without a pen in your hand. Highlighting keywords and unfamiliar terms encountered while reading can be very useful to increase vocabulary levels.

Making short self-checks are important so that if one does not understand what is being communicated, they can go back immediately to reread previous paragraphs.

Besides, if there are important points to remember from the text, we should try reading them out loud. One study explored the impact of reading aloud on memory. Results for both young learners and adults showed that people consistently remember words if they read them out loud rather than silently. Among 10-year-old students in Australia, those who read aloud remembered 87% of the words they have read compared to 70% for those who read silently. Among senior participants aged 67 to 88, those who read aloud remembered 27% of the words they have read, while those who read silently recalled only 10% of the words (MacLeod and Bodner, 2016).

References

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