Read the text and say what is essential to become a good and fast reader.

Reading Strategies

1. Preview

Good readers preview the text first, i.e. look over the whole passage for a moment. This helps to make them good and fast readers.

A. Read the title. The first thing to do when previewing is to read the title. Titles not only announce the subject, but also make the reader think.

B. Anticipate and predict. Anticipation and prediction are two basic reading skills that are used to guess or predict how the passage will develop. We anticipate before we read a passage, and we predict after the passage begins. Our anticipation is therefore related to our own personal background knowledge on the subject. After a passage begins we find «clues» that help us predict what is going to come next. These clues may be in the meaning or in the grammatical structure of a sentence or its vocabulary.

C. Read the opening paragraph. Some writers may announce what they hope to tell you, or why they are writing. Some writers just try to get the reader's attention — they may ask a provocative question.

D. Read the closing paragraph. Writers may have something important to say in the end. Some writers repeat the main idea once more, some draw a conclusion or summarize.

E. Glance through. Skim and scan the selection. When you're skimming, go through a passage quickly in order to get a general idea of what it is about. When you're scanning you look for specific piece of information (a figure, a date, a name) that you need.

2. Read for meaning.

Individual words do not tell us much. They must be combined with other words, and readers should see words in meaningful combinations. Read in «thought groups» (or message units) — try to group the words into phrases which have natural relationship to each other.

3. Grasp paragraph sense.

The paragraph is the basic unit of meaning. If you can understand the main

point of each paragraph, you can comprehend the author's message.

A. Find the topic sentence. The topic sentence, the sentence containing the main idea, is often the first sentence of a paragraph. It is followed by other sentences which support, develop or explain the main idea.

Sometimes a topic sentence comes at the end of a paragraph (then the supporting details come first). Sometimes following the dominant noun through its repetitions and transformations into synonyms will eventually lead you to the main idea. Some paragraphs do not have a topic sentence. Such paragraphs usually create a mood or feeling, rather than present information.

B. Understand paragraph structure. Just as readers read for different reasons, writers write for different reasons. What purposes may an author have for writing?

1 Inform — give facts or information about a subject.

2 Define — provide definitions on a subject.

3 Describe — give an account of a subject in words.

4 Persuade — influence a person's opinion or behavior about something.

5 Explain — make plain or understandable, give the reason for or cause of.

6 Entertain — interest or please.

7 Illustrate, compare, contrast and so on.

Sometimes distinctions among these types are blurred, but the purpose should always relate to main idea. If the main idea is not stated somewhere within a paragraph, it must be inferred, figured out from important details of the paragraph. A good reader is able to infer the things that the author implies.

4. Organize facts.

Understanding how the facts all fit together to deliver a message is, after all, the reason for reading. Good readers organize facts as they read, they discover the writer's plan by looking for a clue or signal word early in the text which might reveal the author's structure. Every writer has a plan or outline which he follows. Sometimes the author gives you obvious signals. If he says «There are four reasons...» a good reader looks for a listing of four items. As you read the selection, keep the information in mind and relate it to the title.

Vocabulary work

1. Explain the meaning of the following words and word combinations and restore the context they are used in: *preview, anticipate, predict, provocative, glance, skim, scan, grasp, paragraph, comprehend, the author's message, the topic sentence, define, persuade, infer, figure out, imply, deliver, reveal.*

2. What are the following words combined with in the text? *to preview…, provocative…, glance…, to skim for…, to scan for…, to grasp…, to comprehend…, to infer…, to deliver…, to reveal….*

3. Guess the word or word combination:

- look over the whole passage for a moment;
- two basic reading skills used to guess how the passage will develop;
- go through a passage quickly in order to get a general idea of what it is about;
- look for specific piece of information;
- message units;
- the basic unit of meaning;
- to understand;
- the sentence containing the main idea;
- give facts or information about a subject;
- influence a person's opinion or behavior about something;
- provide definitions on a subject;
- interest or please;
- to express, show or mean indirectly;
- to show, to make known.

4. Give the synonyms: *to forecast, to understand, a thought group, aim, to convince, to express indirectly, to figure out, to show.*

Key vocabulary:

imply, inform, reveal, define, comprehend, entertain, the topic sentence, persuade, thought groups, scan, anticipate and predict, skim, preview, paragraph.