



DEPARTAMENTO DE FORMAÇÃO GERAL  
LÍNGUA INGLESA I, II  
LEARNING TO READ IN ENGLISH

**DEVELOPING READING STRATEGIES**

1. Search for cognate words in English. They are similar in spelling and have the same meaning in Portuguese.
2. Concentrate on the known words, making use of your previous knowledge of the English language.
3. Familiarize with the main structures of the English language such as nouns, adjectives, verbs, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions (connectors).
4. Observe the title. Through the title it is possible to identify the subject/content of the text.
5. Observe the pictures, tables, graphs or any type of non-verbal information in the text.
6. Identify the layout of the text. Is it from a newspaper, a magazine, a journal? Or is it a summary, a web page, a resumé or anything else?
7. Make use of your previous knowledge. Everything you have seen, studied or known about the theme is useful to predict and understand the content.
8. Pay attention to the words which appear highlighted: **bold**, *italics*, the size of the font, CAPITAL LETTERS not in the beginning of a sentence, etc.
9. Identify the keywords and the words which repeat through out the text. When they are unknown words try to deduce their meaning through the context.
10. For the unknown words, observe if they come with prefixes or suffixes or both.
11. Use a dictionary as a last resource, after trying the first ten strategies. First, try to associate, guess, deduce and check your ideas about the text or the meaning of the words without a dictionary. Use it to build your own knowledge about the English language and expand your vocabulary.