



READING SKILLS

Sasanjalie Jayasinghe



What is reading?

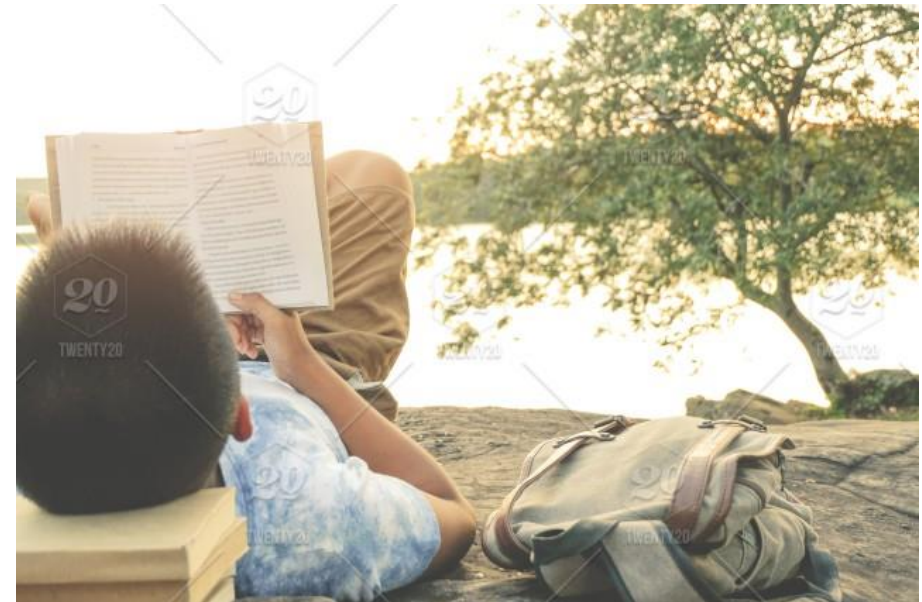
- a skill which enables us to get a message
- recognizing the written words (written symbols)
- understanding the meaning



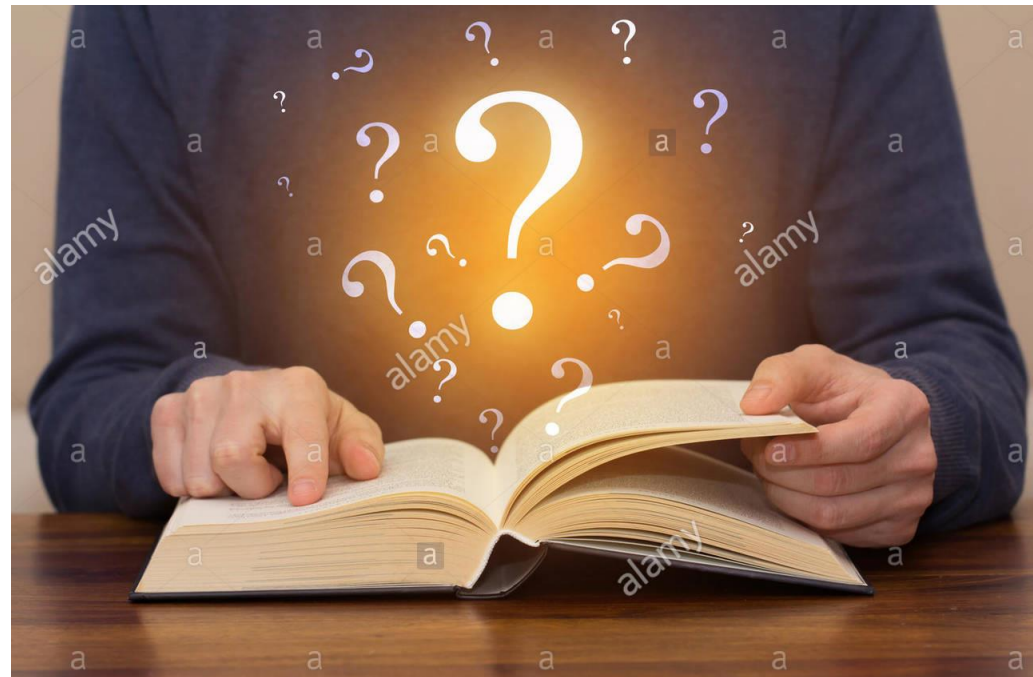
Why is Reading Important?

Because reading,

- helps to expand the mind
- allows for critical thinking
- improve concentration



What are Reading Skills?



1) Previewing

We can preview a text book to **get information** about a text by **looking** at several **clues without reading** the **entire** text.

E.g. the title page, the contents page, the index

Sometimes a book gives the topic of each paragraph.

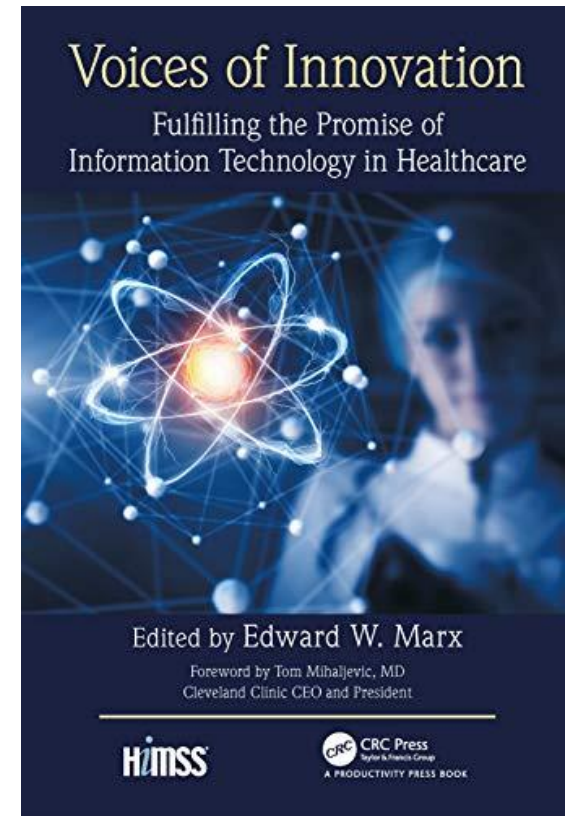
E.g. Mechanical Engineering Science

Chapter 7 - Velocity and Acceleration



To preview, start by reading

- The title and author details
- The abstract (if there is one)
- Then read only the parts that are important; main headings and subheadings, chapter summaries, any highlighted text etc.
- Examine any illustrations, graphs, tables or diagrams and their captions, as these usually summarize the content of large chunks of text.
- The first sentence in each paragraph.



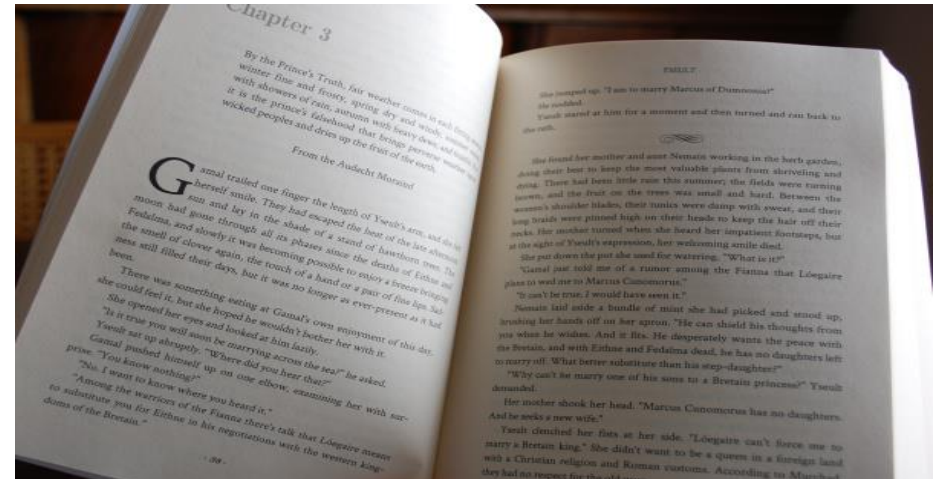
2) Skimming

We skim through a text to find out what a text is about by **going through it quickly without** trying to **understand** every word. We skim a text to get a **general** idea of what it is about.



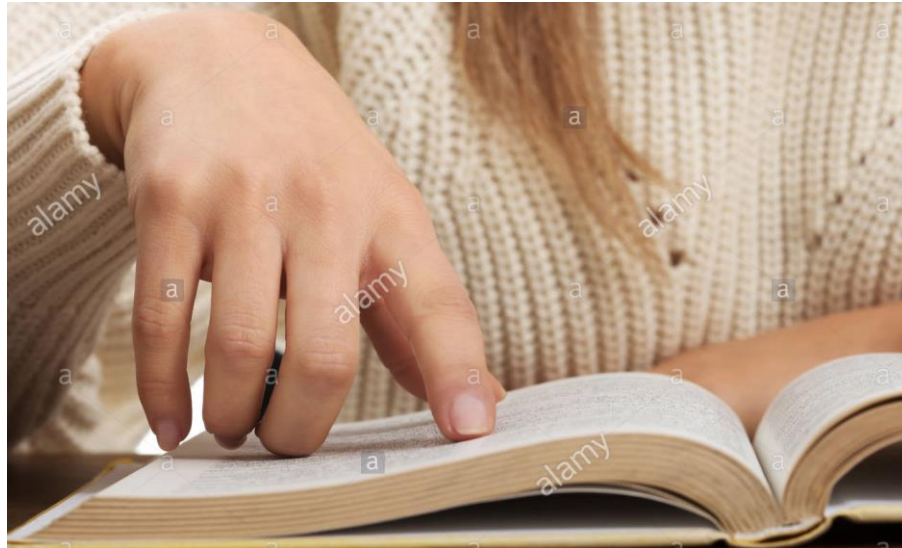
How to Skim

- Note any bold print and graphics.
- Start at the beginning of the reading and move your eyes over the text very quickly.
- Do not actually read the text in total. You may read a few words of every paragraph, perhaps the first and last sentences.
- Always familiarize yourself with the reading material by gaining an overview and/or skimming before reading in detail.



3) Scanning

We scan a text to search for **specific information quickly** without reading it fully. Here we try to **locate** the **sentence** or **line** in which the **specific information** we want is located.



How to scan

- After gaining an overview and skimming, identify the section(s) of the text that you probably need to read.
- Start scanning the text by allowing your eyes (or finger) to move quickly over a page.
- As soon as your eye catches an important word or phrase, stop reading.
- When you locate information requiring attention, you then slow down to read the relevant section more thoroughly.
- Scanning and skimming are no substitutes for thorough reading and should only be used to locate material quickly.



Exercise 1

Read the passage and answer the questions

The first experimental Drive in Concert, was held as part of the “Restart Sri Lanka” initiative on 30th May 2020 in Ratmalana Airport premises. The concert was organized to re-activate the entertainment industry in Sri Lanka which is at a complete stop due to the Covid 19 pandemic, and also to raise money for “Itukama” – the fund initiated for Covid19 relief. Popular Musicians Bathiya and Santhush preformed along with several other artists. There were nearly 600 vehicles in the open-air concert, which became a little challenging for the organizers. All tickets were sold online, and the money collected was donated to the coronavirus fund of the government.

- 1) When and where did the first Drive in Concert take place?
- 2) What is the name of the fund initiated for Covid 19 relief?
- 3) Who performed in this concert?
- 4) Why did this event become a challenge to the organizers?

4) Getting the main ideas and supporting details of a text

A paragraph always consists of a **main idea** and supporting **details**

First, try to identify the most important person, place or thing in the paragraph

(this makes the process of reading easy)

When the most important point is identified, other details related to the main idea can be easily identified



Exercise 2

Read and identify the main ideas of each paragraphs

- 1) It is often said that lightning never strikes twice in the same place, but this isn't true. Go ask the forest rangers. Rangers who spend their summers as fire-fighters will tell you that every thundershower brings several bolts of lightning to their lookout stations.
- 2) Advertising affects our lives everyday. Brand names are common household words. We start each day using the toothpaste, soap, and breakfast foods promoted by advertisers. Ads have made the cars we drive signs of our success. Our choices of food, dress, and entertainment are swayed by ads. Not one aspect of American life is untouched by advertising.
- 3) Do you wear glasses? Make sure your glasses fit well. The earpieces should be at eye level. Don't try to adjust the earpieces yourself. Take your glasses for adjustments to the place you bought them. Keep your glasses in a case when you're not wearing them. This will prevent scratches. Keep the lenses clean. A soft cloth is best for cleaning.

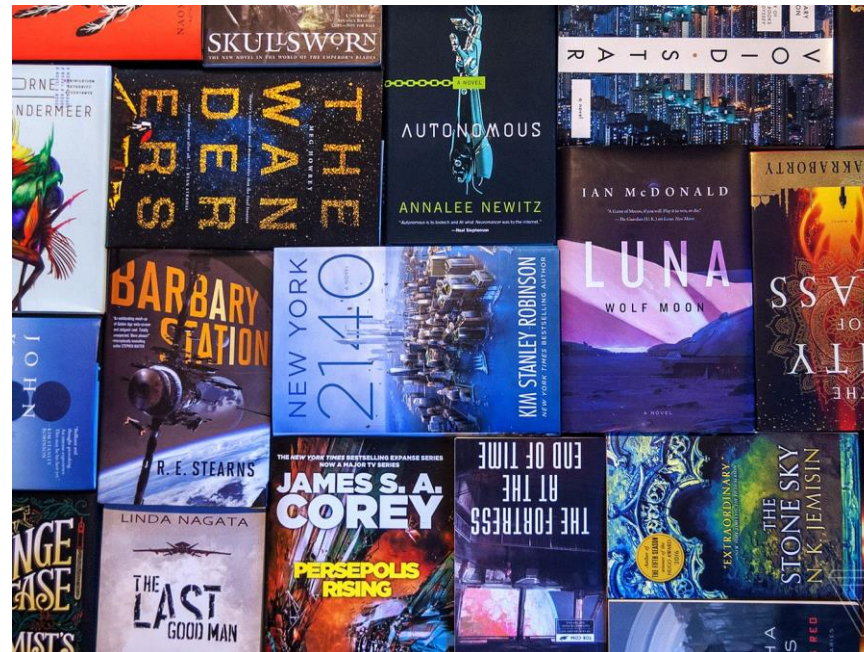
Answers

1. Despite the saying, lightning can and does strike the same place multiple times, as observed by forest rangers during thunderstorms.
2. Advertising influences nearly every aspect of daily life, from household products to personal choices and perceptions of success.
3. Properly fitting and caring for glasses, including professional adjustments and safe storage, is crucial to maintain their condition and effectiveness.

5) Extensive Reading

Extensive reading is casual reading performed for **pleasure or gaining general understanding** on a topic .

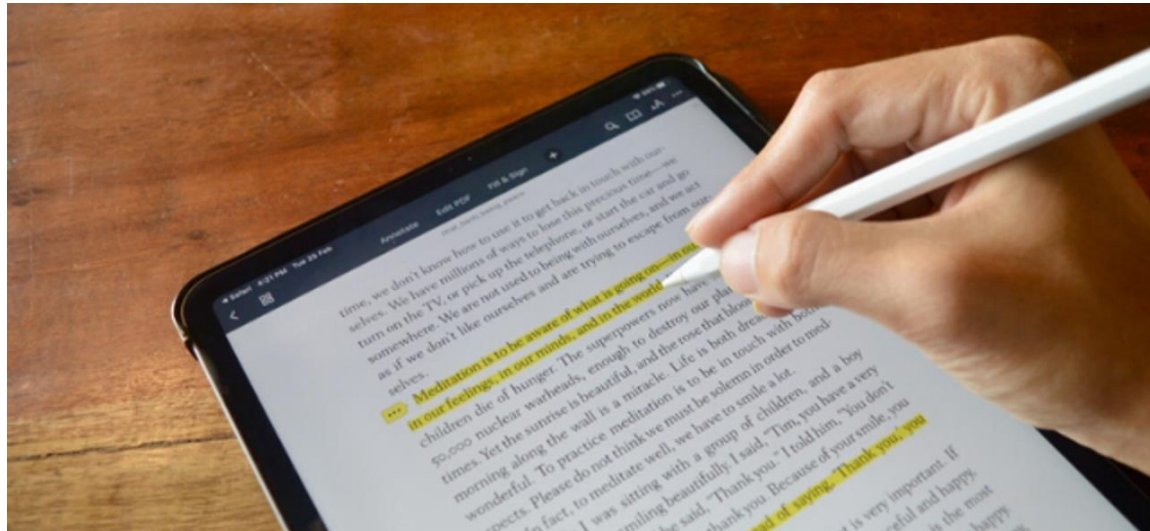
Since you are reading for pleasure, you may read the text selectively without being bothered by unfamiliar words.



6) Intensive Reading

Intensive reading is detailed, focused, ‘**study**’ reading of those **important parts, pages or chapters**.

When you have previewed an article and used the techniques of skimming and scanning to find what you need to concentrate on, then you can slow down and do some intensive reading.



How to read intensively

- Start at the beginning. Underline any unfamiliar words or phrases, but do not stop the flow of your reading.
- If the text is relatively easy, **underline, highlight or make brief notes.**
- If the text is difficult, read it through at least once (depending on the level of difficulty) before making notes.
- When you have finished go back to the unfamiliar vocabulary. Look it up in a dictionary.

Remember, when approaching reading at university you need to make **intelligent decisions about what you choose to read**, be flexible in the way you read, and think about what you are trying to achieve in undertaking each reading task.



Let's watch this video to get a better idea about skimming and scanning

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t3F8pQLtY_Q



A ROOM
WITHOUT BOOKS
IS LIKE
A BODY
WITHOUT
A SOUL.
-CICERO

KEEPINSPIRING.ME