

ENGLISH COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Lecture 4 Adjectives Critical Reading + Reading Comprehension

Remember Adjectives?

TOP 500 ADJECTIVES

Out of the 2265 most frequently used words:

- 528 were identified as adjectives
- 393 were primarily used as adjectives
- the remaining 135 words were different types but could be used as an adjective.

e.g., the word "gold" is a noun. "The price of gold is very high right now." But it can also be an adjective, "The gold trims are beautiful."

Adjectives Cont'd ...

Here are a few examples: **Current**

Used with adjectives:

The river has a **fast** current.

(fast, fast-flowing, powerful, strong, swift, slow)

The **cold** current made her shake.

(cold, warm)

Used with verbs:

The current **flows** west.

(flows, moves, goes, passes)

The plant **generates** current.

(generates, produces, carries, transmits,

Used with prepositions:

"He always swims **against** the current."

(against, with)

Adjectives Cont'd ...

Used with nouns

I met her current **boyfriend**.
working.

The current **chairman** is hard

We are focusing on the current **contract**.

I can't keep up with the current **fashion**

There are some important adjectives called **a-adjectives**.

Here are some common examples:

Ablaze, aglow, aflame, awake, afoot, etc.

Adjectives Cont'd ...

These a-adjectives are only used after a linking verb like *be, feel, look or seem* and never used before the noun.

- The baby is asleep **NOT** The asleep baby
- The house is ablaze **NOT** The ablaze house

¹ Aloof is used before the noun: *an aloof person*

² A few of the other a-adjectives are sometimes used before the noun if they are used with a modifier: *the half-asleep man, the wide-awake child, the very ashamed student*

But the basic rule is:

Do not use these adjectives before a noun.

Adjectives Cont'd ...

NOTE: Other adjectives beginning with *a-* such as *abominable*, *assertive*, ***attentive***, etc. are used before and after the noun and are not referred to as a-adjectives.

Now let's try out activity 1 on your handout.



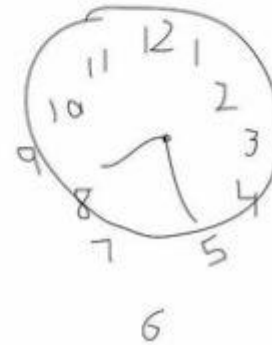
Types of Adjectives - Handout

Break Time!



sometimes
the apology
never comes
when it is wanted
and when it comes
it is neither wanted
nor needed

you are too late - rupi kaur

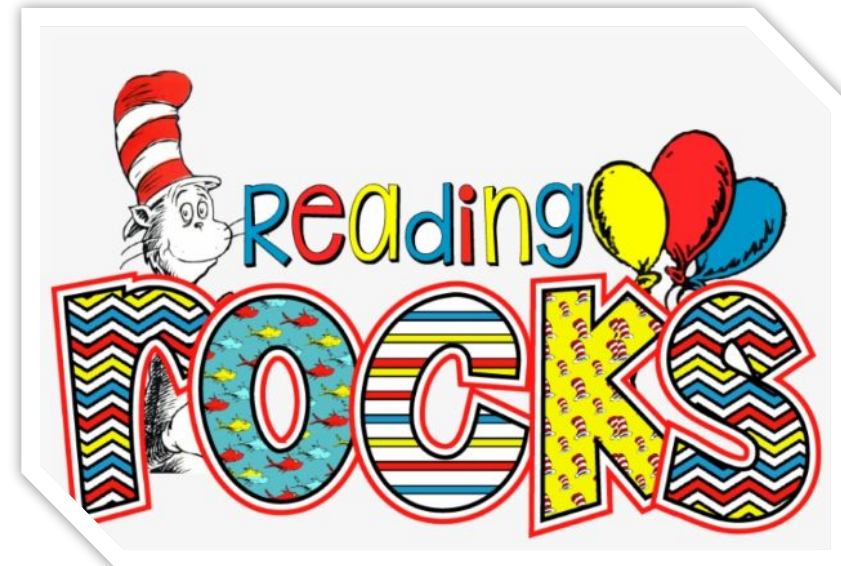


CRITICAL READING

What is Critical Reading?

Many different definitions and views have been expressed. Here are some:

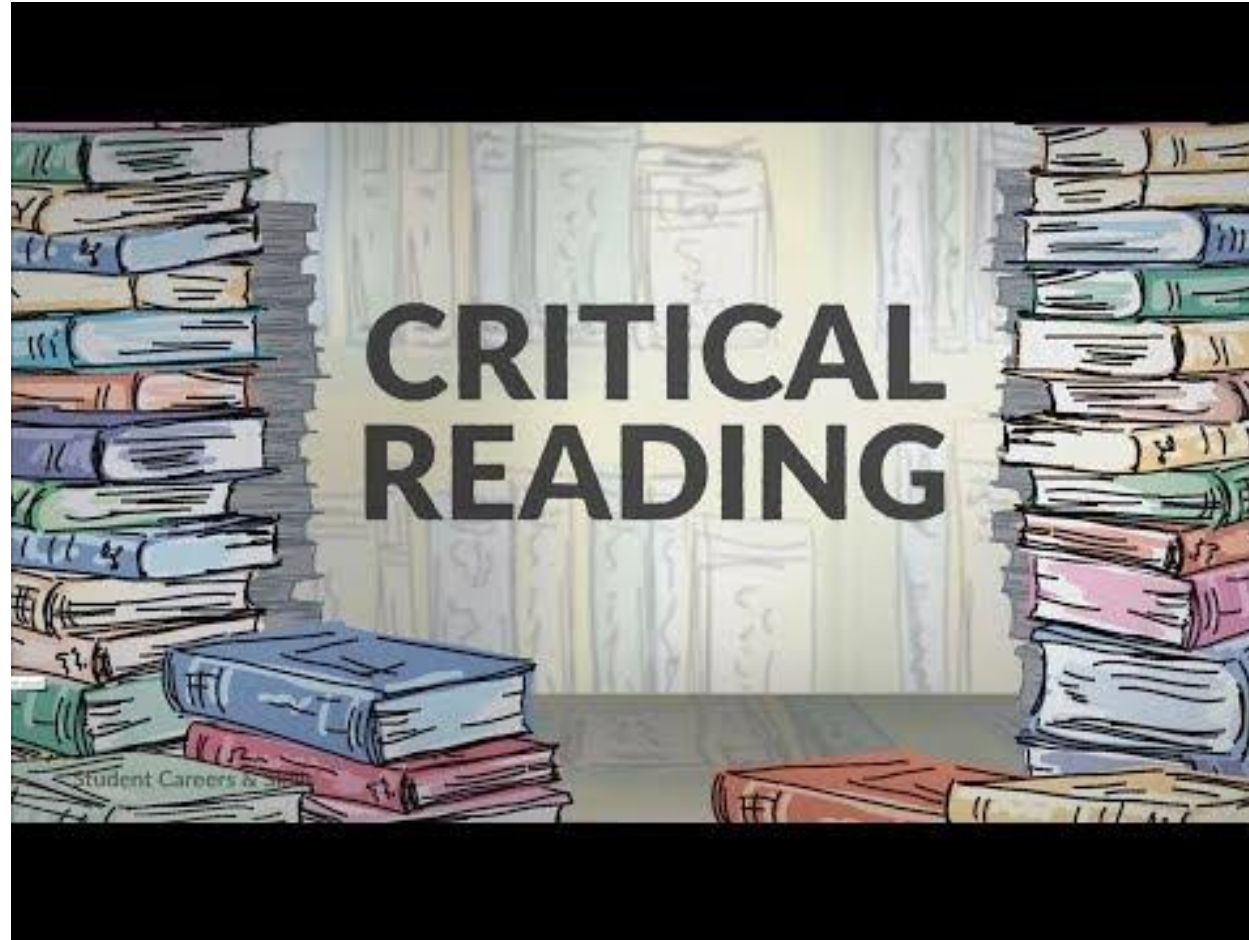
- Reading with the goal of finding a deep understanding of the material, whether it is fiction or nonfiction.
- You do not take the given text at face value ...
- You often have to analyze, interpret, and sometimes evaluate
- Read with an open mind
- Check out the evidence or arguments put forward
- Is the article biased, prejudiced or false?



CRITICAL READING (Cont'd...)

- The questions asked will depend on the type of text.
 - e.g. Academic text – a skeptical attitude
 - Spotting deficiencies like limitations and gaps in research
 - Making a strike between over-criticism and over-acceptance

(let's look at a balanced example on handout 2)
- Critical reading prepares you for good writing. It will prepare you to:
 - ✓ identify the structure of a text
 - ✓ present an argument logically
 - ✓ evaluate the evidence and
 - ✓ make appropriate claims and to identify the limitations of your findings.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EW3JLxPs-f4>

CRITICAL READING (Cont'd...)

- There are two broad elements to critical reading:
 - ✓ what you can identify from the text (data, how the data is interpreted, the tone of the text, logical argumentation, etc.)
 - ✓ what is not directly available in the text but what you can infer from your own knowledge.

Now look at your handout (2) again:

- Initial steps in critical reading – pre-reading
- Next, try out activity one on CR.

HOW TO READ CRITICALLY



Source: <https://guides.library.harvard.edu/skreadinghabits>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BcV64lowMIA>

READING COMPREHENSION

- The process of simultaneously **extracting and constructing** meaning through interaction and involvement with written language.
- The process of comprehending involves decoding the writer's words and then using background knowledge to construct an approximate understanding of the writer's message.
- There are many skills that will help you to become a good reader. Skimming & scanning has already been covered in the last lecture – lecture 3.
- More activities will be done in the tutorial session.



How is reading in college different from reading in high school?

There's a lot more of it, and it has to be done, rather than simply should be done.

In high school, there's a lot of memorizing of facts. In college, if a professor assigns something, you're expected to read it.

What's the biggest reading mistake students make?

There are a few. Avoidance of reading is a big problem.

Some of it occasionally has to do with a learning disability. Some of it has to do with attention span.

Most students just haven't had the practice. Reading is a skill you build up over time.

Another one is that students will see unfamiliar words, and they just skip over them without looking up the words. But if students don't know what the word means, they miss a lot of meaning, and that translates into errors on tests.

i don't know what living a balanced life feels like

when i am sad

i don't cry, i pour

when i am happy

i don't smile, i beam

when i am angry

i don't yell, i burn

the good thing about

feeling in extremes

is when i love

i give them wings

but perhaps

that isn't

such a good thing

cause they always

tend to leave and

you should see me

when my heart is broken

i don't grieve

i shatter

- rupi kaur



Additional Resources:

- <https://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/twc/sites/utsc.utoronto.ca.twc/files/resource-files/CriticalReading.pdf>
- <https://www.skillsyouneed.com/learn/critical-reading.html>
- <https://www.englishforeveryone.org/Topics/Reading-Comprehension.html>

Thank you!

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