



IIT Madras

BSc Degree

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Developing Reading Skills

Dr. Om Prakash

Reading as Skill

- Reading is a process whereby readers bring their experiences and background knowledge in order to derive meaning from any given text.
- Reading is thus an active process. We are engaged with the text and continuously anticipate what to come next.
- It is a multifaceted and layered process in which the reader derives the intended meaning of the text.
- The reading involves complex cognitive skills. The speed and the deduction in reading depends on the context and purpose of reading.

Developing Reading Skills

- Pre-reading
- While-reading
- Post-reading
- Skimming
- Scanning
- Deductions

Skimming and Scanning

- Skimming refers to glancing rapidly through a text to find out its general content, central idea or gist. It helps us to find out the relevance and utility of the text and be familiar with the content. While skimming, we do not have any specific content and context in our mind. We look for available information in the text without a prior judgement.
- Scanning refers to darting over a text in search of a specific piece of information. While scanning, we have some specific content and context in our mind. We look for specific information in the text with a prior purpose and need.

Intensive and Extensive Reading

- Intensive reading aims at looking at any given text deeply and closely for a detailed and thorough understanding of the text. It involves careful attention and concentration for delving deep into the intended meaning.
- Extensive aims at reading in quantity for extending our understanding and the basis of the deduction about themes. It gives us linguistic exposure and contexts to learn new expressions, contexts, and alternative explanations of the similar themes.

Selecting Texts

- Biographies
- Travelogues
- Novels
- Fictions
- Non-Fictions
- Memoirs
- Social History
- Political History
- Philosophy
- Sci-fi Texts
- Technology
- Adventure