

Reading Strategies

HTWD
Sprachenzentrum

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Purpose of Reading

We read to

- ☐ gather information
- ☐ study and learn
- ☐ find answers to our questions
- ☐ analyse topics
- ☐ relax and enjoy

Characteristics of Texts (I): Features

□ External features

- author/audience
- date of publication
- place of publication
- layout (paragraphs, length, nontextual information)
- contents (headline)

□ Internal features

- syntax, semantics
- grammar, style, vocabulary, punctuation etc

Characteristics of Texts (II):

- According to these features, a text can be recognised as e.g.
 - interview
 - scientific article
 - advertisement
 - presentation
 - summary
 - definition
 - business letter ...

Characteristics of Texts (III): Media

Written text, e.g.

- books
- newspapers
- magazines
- online

Spoken text, e.g.

- presentations
- films
- radio
- interviews

Multimedia texts, e.g.

- software
- hypertexts

Written, spoken and multimedia texts vary according to their external and internal features.

Reading Strategies

- Our decision to use a certain reading strategy is based on the purpose of reading.

- 4 main strategies:
 - Surveying
 - Skimming
 - Exploring
 - Searching

Surveying

Purpose

- ☐ to evaluate the usefulness of a text for a specific purpose

Reading process

- ☐ decide about relevance of topic
- ☐ define externals
- ☐ define relation between headline and body

Skimming

Purpose

- ☐ to identify main structure of the text
- ☐ to distinguish relevant from irrelevant information

Reading Process

- ☐ define relation between main headline and subheadlines
- ☐ define relation between parts of the text
- ☐ identify core sentences
- ☐ differentiate between main idea and details

Exploring

Purpose

- ☐ to get detailed information about the topic
- ☐ to match main points and details

Reading Process

- ☐ work with dictionaries
- ☐ reread sentences and paragraphs
- ☐ translate phrases and sentences
- ☐ interpret statements and parts of texts

Searching

Purpose

- to locate a specific piece of information in an adequate time

Reading Process

- extract details using the knowledge about text structure (e.g. names, prices, years, data ...)