UNIT 5 Reading Skills

DR KRUTI VYAS

IMPROVING COMPREHENSION SKILLS

- Read a variety of materials. Do not limit yourself to textbooks.

- Read a fairly long portion of the material. It would be difficult to assess reading comprehension based on one or two paragraphs. Try to read an entire section or chapter instead.

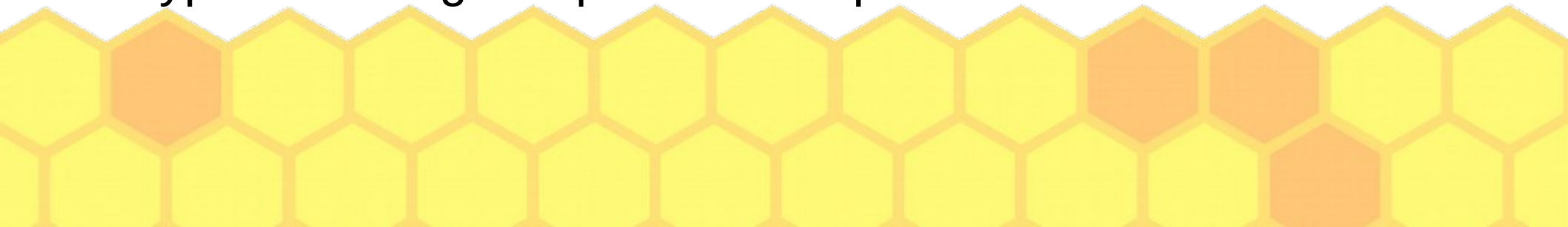- Circle unknown or unfamiliar words as you read.

Cont...

- After reading, recall as much of the information as possible. Jot down points if you like. Then check the accuracy and completeness of your recollections. If the main ideas are presented in a particular order, see if you can recall the structure.

- Consider how interesting the subject matter is and how much you already know about the subject.

- Answer questions about the material after reading it.

TECHNIQUES FOR GOOD COMPREHENSION

- Skimming and scanning

- Non-verbal signals

- Structure of the text

- Structure of paragraphs

- Punctuation

- Author's viewpoint (inference)

- Reader anticipation: Determining the meaning of words

- Summarizing

- Typical reading comprehension questions

Reader Anticipation: Determining the Meaning of Words

- You can develop this skill by following a method. Look for clues or indications that help you find the meaning.

The following steps can help you:

- Step 1 Determine the word class, i.e., a verb, a noun, an adjective, an adverb, etc.

- Step 2 Determine its function in the sentence, i.e., how it is related to other words in the sentence.

- Step 3 Analyse the contextual clues, i.e., the context in which we find this word positive or negative; what the context tells us about the word.

- Step 4 Is there any relation between this word and a word that is familiar to you? Consider the word aging in the population is aging rapidly. We recognize the word age in aging and therefore we can easily derive its meaning.

- Step 5 Try and derive the eventual meaning of the word.

Extensive reading and Intensive reading

- Intensive reading is a detailed study of the prescribed text in order to train the students is an important aspect of language teaching, i.e. reading.

- The objectives of intensive reading are:

- The aim is to make a detailed study of words, phrases, word order and expressions, thus entirely dealing with the sentence structure.

- The aim is to enable the students to comprehend the text, its sense and meaning.

- The aim is to enable the students to improve and command over English and increase comprehension of the texts that they come across with expanding vocabulary.

- It encourages the students to gather information from the text.

Extensive reading and Intensive reading

- Extensive reading should be undertaken only when the students have mastered at least a vocabulary of about 500 words, implying it should be started in the middle classes and not prior to it, and the students should have developed the ability to recognize words at sight. eading longer texts, usually for one's own pleasure. This is a fluency activity,

- mainly involving global understanding.

- Objectives of extensive reading:

- To develop the habit of self-study in the students.

- To develop the taste for reading in the students.

- To enable the students to understand the meaning of the given passage as early as possible.

- To increase the passive vocabulary of the students.

- To develop the power of concentration.

- To read for pleasure and recreation.

Skimming and Scanning

- Before starting to read a text in detail, you should take a moment to preview the text. Read quickly, without pausing to study the details. This is called skim reading or skimming. You should understand for which audience the text was written (general public, professionals, laymen . . .); what type of text it is (report, informal letter, formal letter, article, advertisement . . .); what the purpose of the author is (to describe, to inform, to explain, to instruct,

- to persuade); and the general contents of the text.

- After having skimmed the text, you can study it in more detail, reading more slowly and carefully and looking for specific information that you are interested in. This is called scanning.