

Improving Reading Skill

Zaimasuri, M.I.Kom

- Here are some simple and effective ways to help students build reading skills to better understand text

6 Strategies to Improve Reading Comprehension

- **Tips 1:** Make the habit of reading faster by reading words in groups/chunks rather than word by word.
- Try to read minimum 2 hours per day. Read whatever interest you but obviously written in English. The three reading passages are on topics of general interest and usually, these passages are taken from books, newspapers, journals or magazines. So try to read recent news, newspapers, magazines, travel brochures etc. whenever possible.

- **Tips 2:** Remember that you are reading for a purpose, not for pleasure.
- While practising, make a habit of looking at the title and headings when you survey the text, as well as any special print like CAPITAL, **Bold**, *italic*, "quotation", underlined words. Try to understand exactly what the question wants and always followed the instructions carefully provided with the reading passages.

- **Tips 3:** Practice scanning by applying the scanning techniques whenever you read a passage.

- **Tips 4:** There is usually a logical place to begin looking for the answer to a reading question.
- This requires an understanding of the main idea or topic of each paragraph. You can save yourself a great amount of time if you work out the main idea or topic of each paragraph in the early stages of your assessment of the passage.

- **Tips 5:** you have to identifying the synonyms of the words from the question and the word in the text

To prepare for the Multiple choice questions:

- Read the instructions carefully and check how many letters you need to circle.
- Skim all the questions and the answer choices quickly. As you do this:
 - » Underline the keywords (the words that give you the most information).
 - » Try to get an idea of the topic you will be reading about from the vocabulary of the questions.
 - » Look at any illustrations or diagrams that go with the text.