

THE METHODS AND TECHNIQUES OF IMPROVING READING SKILLS IN LANGUAGE LEARNING

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ABSTRACT

This article is devoted to methods and skills of effective learning foreign languages. Especially this clarifies the different statements of reading skills. In fact it's a useful material for both teachers and language learners.

Keywords. Skills, say, effective, example.

INTRODUCTION

It's clear that learning a new language requires a great patience from the learner. But no matter how the learners can feel themselves, tutors always teach that with the help of various methods or skills. Which skills can play an effective role for learning a foreign language? There are some considerable statements. For example a good way to learn a foreign language is by studying grammar and vocabulary so that you have some knowledge before you practice speaking, another way is that by making friends with a native speaker and practicing with that person or if you have a chance to master a foreign language in a country where it is spoken so that you have to speak it all the time. What about reading? Can you say that the best way of learning a new language is simply choose a book that interest you and then read them?

Main part

Have you considered the role of reading in your personal and professional life? Even more have you ever considered the adverse effects of poor reading skills? Think about how much of a pivotal role reading plays in your everyday Life. For example: You've just been handed a brochure and manual for your company's newest and most innovative product. You can't wait to show it to your best customers! Yet you're feeling overwhelmed by having to read everything in order to properly understand the benefits of the new product. "Overwhelmed" is the feeling most adults have when asked about reading material. It doesn't matter if it's a newsletter, magazine, or the latest marketing idea. Everyone is faced with hundreds of daily emails, business reports and other such reading demands - making reading a burden rather than a pleasure. As Dr. Reid Lyon said approximately 20 to 30 percent of school-age children have difficulties learning to read. About 15 million youngsters do not have access to the wonders of books and other kinds of texts for learning and enjoyment. Almost as many girls as boys experience difficulties learning to read. Boys seem to be identified as reading disabled more readily because they tend to be more active and boisterous than their female age mates. While these estimates are alarming, they are on the conservative side. Are there social and emotional consequences of not learning to read?

Indeed there are. If you observe children with reading difficulties, many negative effects become apparent. During the early grades, their difficulties are quite embarrassing to them.

This humiliation leads to a predictable decrease in motivation and self-esteem. Children are easily frustrated and ashamed of their difficulties once they notice that many of their classmates read so effortlessly. As the youngsters mature, many of them drop out of school, and of those who manage to graduate from high school, less than two percent attend a four-year college.

What kinds of skills are required to learn to read? Skilled reading requires the integration of several skills and abilities. You cannot learn to read an alphabetic language like English unless you understand that the words that you hear contain smaller sounds called “phonemes.” Phonemes cannot actually be “heard” by the ear because when we speak, the sounds in each syllable and word are folded into one sound to permit rapid communication. Thus, when speaking the word /rat/, the ear hears one sound, not three as in /r/ /a/ /t/. Many readers must be taught “phoneme awareness” if it does not come easily to them. Understanding that spoken words are composed of phonemes is critical because in beginning reading, new words are decoded by linking the phonemes to the letter symbols. Once children learn how to apply sounds to letter symbols, they must practice the process to ensure that their reading becomes rapid and fluent. Reading requires phoneme awareness, phonics, reading fluency, and comprehension skills. Each of these skills is necessary and none are sufficient in their own right. They must be integrated and applied in text through consistent and frequent practice. Learning to read is not a natural process — it requires systematic and well-informed instruction. Young children develop their reading skills with the help of other people around them, especially with the help of their parents. What can parents do to ensure that their children develop a strong foundation for reading? The most important thing that parents can do is talk and read to their children. During the toddler and preschool years it is critical to provide children with many different language and reading experiences that are playful and fun, to include nursery rhymes and rhyming games to expose youngsters to the sounds of our language, lap-time reading, and bed-time reading. It is critical that young children observe their parents reading and learn why reading is so important in our lives.

A major thing to remember is to make all of the language and literacy interactions at home positive and enjoyable experiences.

How can adults improve their reading?

If you read and listen to two articles every day, your reading and listening skills can improve fast. We already use a range of reading styles in everyday situations. The normal reading style that we might use for reading a novel is to read in detail, focusing on every word in sequence from start to finish. If it is a magazine we are reading, we might flick through the pages to see which articles are of interest. When we look in a telephone directory for a particular name, we purposefully ignore all other entries and focus our attention on spotting the name we want. These everyday reading skills can be applied to our studies. To improve our reading skills we need to:

- have clear reading goals;
- choose the right texts;
- use the right reading style;
- use note taking techniques.

Clear reading goals can significantly increase our reading efficiency. Not everything in print will be of use to us. Learners have to use reading goals to select and prioritise information according to the task in hand.

Reading goals can be:

- an essay or seminar subject;
- a report brief;

- a selected subject area;
- a series of questions about a specific topic.

We should use our reading goals to help identify the information that is relevant to our current task. We will need to assess the text to see if it contains information that is relevant to our reading goals.

- Check the date of publication. Is the information up-to-date?
- Read the publisher's blurb at the back or inside sleeve for an overview of the content.
- Check the contents page for relevant chapters.
- Look up references for your topic in the index.

If the text does not seem relevant, we have to discard it.

These techniques encourage an active engagement with the text as well as providing us with a useful record of our reading. Avoid passively reading large amounts of text, it does not make effective use of our time. Always use a note taking technique to increase our levels of concentration and understanding. It is more important to improve our reading skills than our reading speed. Being focused and selective in our reading habits will reduce the time we spend reading. If, in addition to using a range of reading skills we want to increase our reading speed, then the following technique will be of use. The average reading speed is about 240-300 words per minute. For the average reader, the eye fixes on each word individually. It is easy for our eye to recognize 4 or 5 words in a single fixation without a loss of understanding. The key to increasing our reading speed is not to increase the speed at which our eyes move across the page, but to increase the word span for a single fixation. A simple way of developing the habit of taking in more than one word per fixation is to take a page of text and divide it length ways into three with two lines drawn down the page. Using a pen or pencil as a pointer, we read each line of text by allowing our eye to fall only in the middle of each of the three sections, as indicated by our pointer.

How can we develop our reading speed? We needn't to worry about how quickly we are reading but instead, concentrate on reading the line in only three fixations.

As this becomes more natural, we should practice without drawing lines. Later, we have to reduce the number of fixations to two per line. Once this increased word span becomes a comfortable habit, an increase in our reading speed will occur.

By reading newspaper articles you can learn quickly and after some time you will not have to translate into your own language. You will simply understand.

Why should you do this? When you listen to people in your native language, you do not translate. You simply understand. The same has to be in English. When you learn English, you have to learn the whole sentences in context. Students, who translate English texts, do exercises and do tests are very good at translating, doing exercises and doing tests, but they have problems with understanding English in real life. In real life, nobody waits for your translation. People usually use simple **Conclusion.** English when they speak but they use it fast. You have to understand with no translation to your native language. If you translate, you cannot be part of communication because you are thinking about the language too much. These words are maybe hard to read but they are true. You also have to hear every new word 5 to 10 times if you want to remember it. That's why we use the same words in one level. If you read and hear the same words again and again, you will understand them and remember them. If you know words from one level, you can go to a higher level and learn new words. It is important to go step by step, and read and listen to words which are used in English often. So, if you want to understand English fast and learn fast, read two articles or more a day. You can improve your

reading and listening quickly when you read newspaper articles. It will help you learn English fast and understand it. It is also useful for communication with anybody in English.

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