



Lesson two: Reading Techniques

1. What are reading techniques?

For reading to be effective and worthy, the reader should learn how to train him/herself on certain techniques. These techniques differ in terms of conditions and purposes. Whereas reading a table of content looking for a specific title needs to be quick, reading a text in an exam needs to be slow and careful. Also reading a novel for pleasure differs from reading it to do tasks.

The following are the most common reading skills and techniques:

1. Skimming: is to read quickly to get the general idea of something. It helps you know if what you read is useful for you or not. Say, for example, you were looking for articles that deal with wild cats, but after you took a quick look at the articles you downloaded, you found that they were about cats in general. Skimming prevents you from reading all articles, because you just move your eyes throughout their titles and recognize what you want.

2. Scanning: is to read quickly looking for specific information. Everyone has this ability however many are not aware of it. They are for example selling newspapers or visiting different websites only to get one single idea or information.

3. Intensive reading: is to read deeply. The reader has to consider details i.e. words, signs, symbols, unusual structures...etc. When you want to fully understand the intentions of a text, you need to practice intensive reading. This type of reading used to be in classrooms.

4. Extensive reading: unlike intensive reading, extensive reading used to be out-of-classroom. It is usually associated with reading for pleasure. For example, one reads short stories and novels is outdoors enjoying his/her imagination and enriching his/her vocabulary as well.