Lesson four: Tips to Improve Reading Skills

Reading at the university level requires more speed and the ability to analyse and connect ideas so that an essay or a research paper could be prepared on time and in the right manner. Given that most research and scientific productions are in English language, students at this advanced level, needs to improve their reading skills in English. Although many students suffer lack of fluency, lack of keeping up with the ideas of a text and lack of vocabulary, they need to read more and more in order to overcome such problems, and thus develop a good understanding of the language.

The following are also important tips to improve reading skills:

1. Predicting: means reading with an aim in your mind. Or making a set of aims before reading. Then, when you finished reading you may recognize whether what you read adds something to your previous knowledge and enriches your aims or not.

2. Visualizing: means creating an image about what you read. For example, after you finish reading a text, the teacher asked you to describe what you imagined while reading a text. This helps you to understand more about what you read.

3. Making Connections: means the reader needs to connect what he/she is reading with other texts, with other experiences and with the world around him. By doing so he/she develops a clear view of the text.

4. Summarizing: means mentioning the most important points of a text. By summarizing the ideas, the reader tries to differentiate between main ideas and secondary ideas. He/she then, proves his/her full comprehension of the text.

5. Questioning: means asking questions before during and after reading a text. Providing questions and looking for answers in the text makes the process of understanding simpler. When the reader succeeded in finding answers to his/her questions, this means he/she deeply understood the text.

6. Inferring: means creating new ideas through the existing ideas of a text. The reader in this case, can say what he/she learned from the text and what the text suggests for him as well as he/she can explain underlying information within the text