

Teaching Strategies to Develop Reading Skills For English Language Learners

Alysan Croydon

What do you read on a regular basis? Add examples in each category that is relevant to you.

Personal orientation/survival (signs, products, labels, directions)

Communicating with yourself (diary, notes, lists)

Communicating to others (email, cards, invites, etc)

Pleasure reading (books, magazines, internet)

Reading for information/to interact with the world (phone book, brochures, forms, maps, school communication, job related)

Reading for content information/academic success (textbooks, authentic materials, etc)

Why we read determines how we read.

Determine the reading purpose (Why are we reading this?)

Examples of different ways of reading:

- Skim
- Scan
- Detailed reading
- Determine facts vs. opinions
- Reading from a point of view

When you have a text to focus on reading lessons can help with:

- Comprehension
- Vocabulary knowledge
- Understanding structure of information and genre features
- Focus on some sound and spelling patterns
- Grammatical features can be explained and analyzed
- Understanding of cohesion (conjunction relationships, pronouns, etc)
- Learning strategies to approach unknown texts

Reading Activities

Pre-reading activities

- Brainstorm a topic or key word
- Use a semantic map of a topic
- Look at pictures, captions, headings
- Read an excerpt to predict text content
- Pose questions about a topic
- Take a position on an issue related to a reading
- Relate personal experience with a topic or theme
- Begin a KWL sequence (Already know, want to know, learned)
- Identify text-type and features (recipes, ads, editorials, etc)
- Teacher highlights or explains cultural assumptions in the text

Help While reading

- Predict what will happen next
- Summarize story so far
- List sequences of events
- Fill in WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE key items
- Complete map or table with information

After-reading activities

- Complete and compare map or table
- Complete KWL sequence
- Correct a text summary full of errors
- Write a reaction
- True/False statements (students can create them for each other)
- Write subheadings for text sections
- Relate to own experience

Tips and Tricks

- Find out what your students need and want to read
- Read with a purpose (NOT 'read the movie review' but "Read the movie review to choose a movie to go to with your 12 year-old daughter)
- Teach reading strategies (How to read, how to read in different ways)
- Use semantic maps/graphic organizers to help prepare for reading and monitor comprehension
- Teach text organization and features (Where to look for info.)
- Provide opportunity for silent reading
- Link reading to other skills
- Use background knowledge and pre-reading activities
- Model reading strategies and "think alouds"

What Research Says about Teaching Reading to Adult English Language Learners

Systematic, planned reading instruction is important.

Learners' needs and interests help motivation.

Learners need direct teaching about English sound-symbol correspondence.

Direct vocabulary instruction is very important.

Learners need direct teaching of grammar and syntax.

Pre-reading discussion of content and cultural background is critical.

Practice with real, authentic materials

Learning how to read in English takes time

Adapted from *How Should Adult ESL Reading Instruction Differ from ABE Reading Instruction?*

Resources

<http://www.usu.edu/teachall/text/reading/Frylist.pdf>

The first 300 words of the Fry Instant Word List make up 65% of print materials such as newspapers, textbooks, children's stories, magazines, and novels.

For semantic maps/graphic organizers:

www.everythingsl.net/in-services/graphic_organizers.php

Reading and the Adult English Language Learner

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http://www.cal.org/caela/esl_resources/digests/Read.html

http://www.cal.org/caela/esl_resources/collections/reading.html

A huge site with many links to useful articles

http://www.sbctc.ctc.edu/college/_e-abe_learningstandards.aspx

Learning Standards

Find the reading standard and the proficiency statements for each ESL level.

Sources of reading material:

<https://www.newsinlevels.com>

<https://newsela.com>

No Talking Dogs Press

<https://pamelahobartcarter.wordpress.com>

New Readers Press

Newreaderspress.com