

Other important reading skills

Skill	What this skill means	Some ways to practise the skill
Visualise	Form pictures in your mind of what is being written about.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jot down notes about (or describe to someone else) what a character in a novel looks like.• Use detail in the text to draw what a character (or a place) looks like.
Hear the writer	Imagine the voice of the writer (or narrator).	Read the text aloud, trying to use a tone of voice that expresses the attitudes and feelings of the writer.
Infer and interpret	Read between the lines.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Think carefully about what assumptions the writer is making.• Look for clues about characters and what motivates them.• Ask yourself what a writer (or narrator) is implying (hinting).
Predict	Think about clues in the text that hint at what will happen later.	Keep asking yourself: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is likely to happen later in the story?• What will the writer's conclusion be?• How do I know?
Re-read	Go back over parts of the text.	Re-read earlier parts of the text to remind yourself of information, events, etc.

Evaluate	Keep asking yourself how good the writing or the ideas are.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Think or talk about how much you agree with the writer. ● Compare this text with similar ones you have read. How good is it in comparison?
Empathise	Put yourself 'in the shoes' of a writer or character.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ask yourself what you would do (or did) in their position. ● Pay attention to how a writer or a character is feeling.
Summarise	Briefly sum up what you have read in your own words.	When you have read something, close the book and jot down the key information you have just read. Use notes and bullet points if they help.

Reading more: the 'reading gym'

Reading is still a very important skill. One reason some people don't read well is that they don't read often enough. If you are going to get good at reading, you need to practise it a lot. The trouble is that most of us don't like practising things – especially things we don't enjoy, so here are some tips and ideas to help you practise and enjoy reading:

- Read for 15 minutes on your own at the same time every day, e.g. 7–7.15 a.m. Do not let anything get in the way of this routine. Turn off all phones, computers, TVs, etc. Make yourself do it.
- Tell your family that you are reading every day at the same time. Ask them to do it as well. Do not give it up.
- Add one minute to your reading time on the first of every month. Do it. Do not give up.