

## METHODS ON HOW TO DEVELOP GENERAL READING SKILLS AMONG STUDENTS IN A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME

**Mansurov O'Imas Fazliddinovich**

Samarkand state institute of foreign languages

[ulmasmansurov6@gmail.com](mailto:ulmasmansurov6@gmail.com)

***Abstract:** Nowadays many students come across various obstacles in terms of reading comprehension. This article covers several strategies for developing students' general reading skill.*

***Keywords:** reading comprehension, prediction, strategy, reading articles, "5" method, general reading skill, scanning and skimming retelling, translation, reading resources*

Most of students and language learners face up some challenges during enhancing their general reading skill and reading comprehension. Reading is not only learning new vocabularies by heart but also understanding a specific text or passage, story. If you cannot translate the passage or story from English into your mother tongue, it will be also one of the biggest issues in student's reading skill.

Currently, there are a number of methods and strategies for improving reading skill. Such as reading articles, doing vocabulary exercises and reading some kind of stories or English literature which is an appropriate on your level (for example; elementary, intermediate or advanced level). I have experienced more time one method assisted to enhance my general reading skill which is called "*reading daily articles and magazines*". According to native speakers, reading articles play an important role during improving your reading comprehension. There are **5 significant strategies** in order to enhance the reading skill:

**1. Reading just for fun an article** ( choose an interesting story or article):

During this stage, you should read whole passage or article just for fun without paying attention.

**2. Highlighting new words:** reader must highlight the new vocabularies and learn them by heart before translation the text.

**3. Translate the text into your mother tongue:** after learning vocabularies, reader should translate the text.

**4. Read the article aloud:** at this stage, the reader is required to read the article aloud, emphasizing each word.

**5. Final step:** read the article as quickly as possible, with intonation. This step helps in increasing the reading speed.

**Comprehension**

The process of comprehending text begins before children can read, when someone reads a picture book to them. They listen to the words, see the pictures in the book, and may start to associate the words on the page with the words they are hearing and the ideas they represent. (Pressley, M. (1977)).

**Predicting**

When students make predictions about the text they are about to read, it sets up expectations based on their prior knowledge about similar topics. As they read, they may mentally revise their prediction as they gain more information.

**Retelling**

Asking students to retell a story in their own words forces them to analyze the content to determine what is important. Teachers can encourage students to go beyond literally recounting the story to drawing their own conclusions about it. (Honig, B., L. Diamond, and L. Gutlohn. (2013)).

There are another several methods and strategies for general reading skills and comprehension:

### **1. Active Reading**

Encourage students to actively engage with the text by asking questions before, during, and after reading. Promote note-taking, underlining, and summarizing, and encourage discussions about what was read.

### **2. Expand Vocabulary**

Teach students how to use contextual clues to understand unfamiliar words. Explore word meanings, synonyms, and antonyms, and encourage the use of new vocabulary in writing and speaking.

### **3. Comprehension Strategies**

Learn specific comprehension strategies such as summarizing, questioning, making predictions, and visualizing. These strategies can help students deepen their understanding of the text.

### **4. Reading Aloud**

Encourage students to read aloud. This can assist in developing fluency, expression, and pronunciation.

### **5. Independent Reading**

Allocate time for silent, independent reading. This encourages students to read at their own pace and explore personal interests.

### **6. Graphic Organizers**

Use graphic organizers such as story maps, Venn diagrams, and timelines to help students organize and summarize what they have read.

These methods are intended to cultivate a love for reading and develop strong reading comprehension skills.

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