Textbook Reading Skills

Previewing
• Become familiar with new textbooks
• Understand how the chapters are set up
• Know what to expect

Previewing your textbook
Directions: Preview your textbook. Answer the questions.

Title:
Author(s):
Date of publication:
Number of pages:
Check the features. Does your textbook contain:
____ a table of contents?
____ an index?
____ a glossary?
____ a bibliography?
____ end-of-chapter questions?
____ illustrations?
____ charts and graphs?
____ anything else helpful to the reader?

Evaluate: Do this with all of your textbooks, and compare the differences. Discuss what features you like and do not like.

Scanning
• Use when locating specific information
• Learn to not read every word
• Improve reading speed, which is very important for ESL/EFL students needing to read in English.
  **Some students might spend 3-4 times longer on their reading assignments if they do not learn how to improve their reading speed.**

Skimming
• Combines both previewing and scanning skills
• Focus on topic sentences and main ideas of the text
• Obtain an overview of the form and content of the text, and an understanding of the outline
• Determines important parts that need to be read more thoroughly.

SQ3R Method
S- Survey.
Preview. Find the purpose of what you’re going to study.

Q- Question.
Find out what you need to learn. Ask what, why, how, when, who, where. Write these questions in your notes and.

R- Read.
Read the introduction, conclusion, and summary first. Locate and highlight key points, bold and italicized words. Take note of charts, pictures, and graphics. Read to answer the questions.

R- Recall.
Pause every 15-20 minutes to recall and summarize what you have read, and write it down.

R- Review.
Did you answer your questions, understand the material, and accomplish your goal? Reread difficult parts if needed.

** Recalling and reviewing new material several times is the best way to remember and understand new information!
Read the following questions first, and then scan the passage on the screen when it is shown. You will have less than a minute to read the text. Try to answer the questions as best as you can.

1. The crab in this partnership is the
   a) Spider crab
   b) Fiddler crab
   c) Hermit crab
   d) Sponge crab

2. Its partner is described as
   a) A sea plant
   b) A sea flower
   c) An animal like flower
   d) A flower like animal

3. The crab’s partner lives
   a) Inside the shell
   b) On top of the shell
   c) On a nearby rock
   d) None of the above

4. The sea anemone gains because it has a better
   a) Food supply
   b) Place to hide
   c) Both A and B
   d) Neither A nor B

5. The crab gains because it is
   a) Better hidden from its enemies
   b) Protected by the anemone’s tentacles
   c) Both A and B
   d) Neither A nor B

6. A “two-gun” crab is protected by
   a) Two anemones settled on its shell
   b) An anemone on each foreclaw
   c) An anemone on each of its hindmost pair of legs
   d) Two guns

7. In the crab-anemone relationship, the two animals
   a) Both profit while living together
   b) Work together only now and then
   c) Try to harm each other
   d) Each use tentacles against enemies

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Tomiko is happy to be a student in New York. She is studying English at Columbia University. She plans to finish her English courses in June. Then she will work on her master’s degree at New York University.

Tomiko likes the many beautiful buildings in New York. She also likes the people in New York. Best of all, Tomiko love the theaters in New York. Tomiko is far from her home in Japan, but she is not sad or lonely because she has many things to do. She is very happy and busy in New York.

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1. This passage is about
   a) an American student in New York
   b) a Japanese student in New York
   c) a Japanese student in Japan
   d) a Japanese man studying in New York

2. Tomiko is
   a) unhappy
   b) happy
   c) lonely
   d) not busy

3. She goes to plays in
   a) large theaters
   b) small theaters
   c) New York
   d) all of the above

4. Tomiko has
   a) few interests
   b) few friends
   c) many interests
   d) nothing to do