

Learning Skills

Reading Strategies

Study
skills

For improved learning & understanding

Prioritise your reading

Set aside times for reading – make it a priority.

Find a good place to read – somewhere you are comfortable and distractions are minimal. This could be at home or at the library.

Have paper and pens/highlighters ready.

Before you read

Break reading into chunks or sections – this might help make it less overwhelming. It will also give you a goal/focus for the reading session.

Clarify what you need to know. If you have been given questions to answer have these out. Otherwise set yourself a set of questions. This will help you get actively involved in the reading and ensure you pull out the most important information.

When reading - read through with intent - you are actively trying to find the answers to the questions you have set.

When you are reading

Look at titles, headings and subheadings for clues about the main ideas. Words in italics or bold print are usually important terms or definitions.

If ideas are repeated they are usually important. Study pictures, diagrams and graphs for information.

Know that sometimes you have to re-read several times to understand.

If a section is vital for understanding or learning read slowly and carefully until you fully understand it.

Try reading aloud to yourself. This might help pick up missed or misread words. Underline or highlight key words or points to help focus.

Make a list of unfamiliar words and find the meaning.

After reading

Answer your questions or try explaining what you have read to someone else. This helps turn the passive act of reading into an active one, which helps with understanding and remembering. You can also identify gaps in understanding.

Go back and re-read where necessary