

## Teaching Reading to Beginner Learners with Easy Methods

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**Abstract:** This article gives useful information about the definition of reading and teaching the easiest ways of starting reading to beginners. In the paper, methods of how to teach beginner learners to reading are also provided with clear examples.

**Keywords:** reading, comprehension, activity, books, text, vocabulary.

Reading is a purposeful activity. A person may read for information or to check existing knowledge or to criticize a writer's ideas or writing style. One can also read for pleasure or to improve one's knowledge of the language one is studying. The reading objective also determines the appropriate approach to reading comprehension. The communicative approach to language teaching has given teachers different understandings of the role of reading in the language classroom and the types of texts that can be used in teaching. Reading is a complex cognitive process of decoding symbols that creates or derives meaning. Reading is a means of language acquisition, communication and sharing of information and ideas. The reading objective also determines the appropriate approach to reading comprehension. Someone who needs to know if they can eat at a particular restaurant needs to understand the price information on the menu, but not necessarily know the name of every appetizer on the list. To enjoy a poem, the reader needs to know the words the poet has used and the way they are put together, but not the main idea and supporting details. However, a person using a scientific paper to support an opinion must know the vocabulary used, understand the facts and causal sequence presented, and recognize the hypotheses and ideas presented.

Reading is the process of decoding written or printed characters to understand meaning. It is a complex cognitive skill that involves several steps, such as decoding, understanding, and interpretation. Decoding involves recognizing letters, words, and sentences and understanding their meaning in context. Comprehension involves understanding the meaning of a text and making connections between ideas. Interpretation involves analyzing the text and drawing conclusions. Carter writes that "since reading forms the basis for all other areas of learning, it is necessary to ensure that children of the primary grades attain proficiency in reading"[1]. So it is an important part of everyday life and is essential for academic success and personal development. Effective reading skills are essential for success in all academic subjects, including science, social studies, and language arts. Reading also plays an important role in communication, problem solving, and critical thinking. There are several practical ways to force beginner to start reading and teaching beginning readers to read requires a systematic approach that focuses on developing the basic skills necessary for reading success. Here are some strategies for teaching beginners to read:

- Phonemic awareness is the ability to recognize and manipulate individual sounds in words. This is an important skill for successful reading because it helps students understand the relationship between sounds and letters. Teachers can use games and activities that involve clapping, rhyming, blending, and segmenting sounds to develop phonemic awareness.

- Phonics is the relationship between letters and sounds. This is a necessary skill for decoding words. Teachers can use structured phonics instruction to teach beginners to decode words by teaching them the sounds associated with each letter or letter combination.
- Fluency is the ability to read with accuracy, speed, and expression. This is an important skill for reading comprehension because it helps students focus on the meaning of the text rather than decoding individual words. Teachers can use repeated reading, choral reading, and guided reading to develop fluency skills.
- Vocabulary is knowing words and their meanings. This is an important reading comprehension skill because it helps students understand the meaning of a text. Teachers can access specific vocabulary instruction and a wide range of texts to develop vocabulary skills.
- Comprehension is the ability to understand what is read. This is an important skill for successful reading because it helps students make connections between ideas and draw conclusions. Teachers can use strategies such as questioning, summarizing, and predicting to develop comprehension skills.

Effective reading instruction involves a balance of these five key skills. Teachers should provide specific instruction in each area and provide opportunities for students to practice and apply these skills. Getting beginners to read involves creating a supportive and engaging learning environment that fosters a love of reading. Here are some strategies to get beginners reading:

1. Select the appropriate texts: Choose texts that match the reading level and interests of beginners. It helps build confidence and motivation. Teachers should present a variety of texts, including fiction and poetry.
2. Use visual aids: Use visual aids such as pictures, diagrams and tables to support understanding and participation. Visual aids help students make connections between ideas and understand complex concepts.
3. Read aloud: Read aloud for beginners to model reading fluency and develop listening comprehension skills. Reading aloud also helps students develop interest in reading and instills a love of books.

There are other reasons why reading aloud is considered less useful as a reading activity. Some of them are given below for reference [2].

1. *Reading is an activity of eyes and brain but reading aloud is more related to ears and brain.*
2. *Most EFL/ESL students cannot read aloud and this can be a bad model for other students in the class.*
3. *Sometimes reading aloud helps with pronunciation. But there are other ways to teach good pronunciation that can be done when class time is devoted to speaking.*
4. *An effective reader's reading speed is much faster than his speaking speed.*
5. *Reading aloud focuses the reader on moving in only one direction, whereas in real reading we often look back and forth as we read.*
6. *Reading aloud ignores vital reading skills such as meaning selection and interpretation.*

The reasons given above suggest that teachers should not emphasize reading aloud in intermediate reading classes. However, reading aloud is useful in the early stages, we should not neglect it when teaching young students to read. However, in practice, depending on the nature of the reading activity, we may have one or two students read out their answers as a class, and sometimes the whole class, to read certain sentences. This does not mean that class time should be spent on sequential reading of students as was the case a few decades ago.

4. Provide positive feedback: Provide positive feedback and encouragement to help build confidence and motivation. Teachers should celebrate students' successes and provide constructive feedback to help them improve.

5. Make it fun: Use games, activities, and rewards to make learning fun and engaging. This will help instill a love of reading and encourage beginners to continue reading. Teachers should provide opportunities for students to study independently, with partners, or in groups.

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