

Academic Reading Practice

This resource outlines strategies to develop your reading skills for the courses you're taking.

Why academic reading practice?

In college and university transfer courses, feeling overwhelmed with the amount of reading that needs to be done is common. Extra reading practice with an English Language Learning Specialist (ELLS) will not only better prepare you for your classes, but also equip you with useful language that you can use in your own speaking and writing.

How should I practice?

Generally, there are two options for how the Learning Centre can help you develop your reading skills.

	Option 1: Effective reading for course materials.	Option 2: Reading for useful vocabulary and grammatical structures.
Goals	Master your course readings by employing academic reading strategies.	Choose your own reading materials to develop your skills.
What you will do on your own	<p>Survey: Quickly look at the titles, pictures, subheadings, and any graphics from an upcoming reading assignment. Make notes of concepts that you already know about the topic. Change the subheadings into information questions.</p>	<p>Make a list of reading materials that would interest you. This could be reading related to your studies or for general knowledge. Go to the library, or the library website, and find one or two books or articles that you find interesting or useful.</p>
What you will do with your ELLS	<p>Bring your reading materials and preparation for your session. With your ELLS, you can use these questions as a basis to practice:</p> <p>Skimming: reading for main ideas and identifying topic sentences. Scanning: reading for specific details and useful points. Inferring: guessing the meaning of the words you don't understand based on the context and word form. It would be a good idea to make a list of these words, so that you can use them in your own speaking and writing. Discuss: Afterwards, you can discuss some of the points you took from the reading assignment.</p>	<p>Bring your reading materials to your ELLS. You will explain how these materials might help you in your studies and improve your English skills.</p> <p>Finding useful language structures: You and your ELLS will go through your reading materials to find useful vocabulary and grammar structures. This will help you in two ways. Firstly, you will be able to use these language features in your own speaking and writing. Secondly, your inferring skills will become stronger.</p>