Reading Comprehension

When we say reading comprehension, we mean the ability to read a text, process what has been read, understand what it means, and communicate that understanding.

Keys to Success

In order to help you with reading comprehension, follow these keys to success:

Quick Keys

Take notes before, during, and after reading and reviewing them
Don’t fixate on every word: read for content
Start small and build: read short texts and build your reading stamina

Advanced Keys

Learn the difference between skimming and scanning:

Skimming: locating main ideas and getting a general overview; works for previewing and reviewing
Scanning: locating a specific fact or detail; works for finding information to use

You should use skimming and scanning to help boost your reading comprehension not as a substitute for close, critical reading.

In order to effectively skim and scan:

- Read the first and last paragraphs closely
- Read the first sentence of every paragraph closely
- Look for repetition as you scan the text visually
- Create an outline of the text using your initial skim
- Skip examples that you can return to if needed later

Avoid distracted reading. As distractions increase, reading comprehension will decrease.

To help you limit distractions, you should:

- Organize your study area
- Find a personal connection with the material
- Read when your environment is calm
- Take breaks between readings to reflect and organize
- Get comfortable with your surroundings
- Reward yourself after completing a reading task