

Strategies of a good reader

Good readers comprehend or *understand* what they read, whether they read slowly or quickly. They also know that it is a skill that takes practice, just like any sport. In other words, you become a better reader by reading and by reading lots of different things. Here are some of the strategies that good readers use. With a little practice, you will find that you can do the same things pretty easily, and mostly without even thinking about it.

1. **“Why am I reading this?”** is a question to ask yourself first. It gives purpose or a reason for reading something. Do you need to know details or just the main ideas in the text?
2. **Adjust** your reading speed. Slow down if the sentences or vocabulary are difficult. You can speed up in places where it is easier.
3. **Look** at the title, graphics, picture captions, section headings, and words that are italicized or in bold type.
4. **Relate** what you are reading to things that you already know, and try to make a connection.
5. Anticipate or try to guess what’s coming **next** as you read.
6. **Ask** questions like “I wonder...?” or “I would like to ask the author about...?” or “What would a teacher ask me about this?”
7. Skip and **re-read** words or sentences you don’t understand at first. If you continue to read, often the meaning of a word or sentence is in the context of an entire paragraph.
8. **Summarize** in your head what you just read every few minutes. Ask yourself, “What are the most important things I need to remember?” It is often obvious if you stop for a second to think about it. It can also be helpful to jot down notes or questions as you read.