

THE ROLE OF READING IN LEARNING ENGLISH

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Abstract. This article explores the role of reading in learning English and emphasizes its importance in developing language proficiency. Reading, as one of the core language skills, plays a crucial role in enriching vocabulary, reinforcing grammar, and improving both pronunciation and writing. The study discusses the benefits of intensive and extensive reading, strategies for fostering independent reading habits, and the motivational impact of reading activities. The paper concludes that integrating regular reading practice significantly enhances learners' overall English language competence and interest in language learning.

Keywords. Reading, English language learning, vocabulary, comprehension, motivation, reading strategies.

Annotatsiya. Ushbu maqolada ingliz tilini o‘rganish jarayonida o‘qishning o‘rni va ahamiyati yoritilgan. O‘qish til o‘rganishning asosiy ko‘nikmalaridan biri sifatida leksik boylikni kengaytirish, grammatik bilimlarni mustahkamlash hamda talaffuz va yozma nutqni rivojlantirishda muhim rol o‘ynashi ta’kidlanadi. Tadqiqotda intensiv va ekstensiv o‘qishning afzalliklari, o‘quvchilarda mustaqil o‘qish ko‘nikmasini shakllantirish usullari, shuningdek, o‘qish orqali motivatsiyani oshirish masalalari tahlil qilingan. Maqola o‘qish faoliyati orqali ingliz tilini o‘rganish samaradorligini oshirishga qaratilgan tavsiyalarni o‘z ichiga oladi.

Kalit so'zlar: O'qish, ingliz tili, lug'at boyligi, o'rganish jarayoni, motivatsiya, o'qish strategiyalari.

Аннотация. В данной статье рассматривается роль чтения в процессе изучения английского языка. Подчеркивается, что чтение как один из основных языковых навыков способствует расширению словарного запаса, закреплению грамматических знаний, улучшению произношения и письменной речи. В работе анализируются преимущества интенсивного и экстенсивного чтения, методы формирования самостоятельных навыков чтения и влияние чтения на мотивацию учащихся. Статья направлена на повышение эффективности обучения английскому языку через развитие навыков чтения.

Ключевые слова: Чтение, изучение английского языка, словарный запас, понимание текста, мотивация, стратегии чтения.

Reading plays a vital role in the process of learning English as a foreign language. It is not only a fundamental skill but also a powerful means of improving other language abilities such as speaking, writing, listening, and even thinking in the target language. Through reading, learners are exposed to authentic language, new ideas, and cultural knowledge that enrich their overall understanding and communication competence.

Reading contributes significantly to vocabulary development. When students encounter new words in meaningful contexts, they naturally learn how these words function in sentences and how they relate to one another. Unlike rote memorization, reading provides a context-based approach to vocabulary learning, helping learners retain words more effectively. Exposure to varied texts—stories, articles, essays, and dialogues—allows students to expand their vocabulary in both formal and informal registers. As they read more, they begin to notice collocations, idioms, and sentence structures that are frequently used by native speakers, which later appear in their own speech and writing.

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In addition to vocabulary growth, reading strengthens grammar acquisition. When learners repeatedly encounter grammatical structures in context, they subconsciously internalize the rules. This natural acquisition process makes reading more effective than isolated grammar exercises. For instance, students who read extensively become more familiar with tense usage, prepositions, and sentence patterns without needing constant explicit explanation. Reading also supports the development of writing skills by providing models of coherent, well-organized texts that demonstrate how ideas are connected through appropriate language forms.

Another important role of reading in learning English is the development of comprehension and critical thinking skills. When learners read texts with understanding, they practice predicting, summarizing, analyzing, and inferring meaning. Reading encourages active engagement with the text—students must think about what the author means, identify main ideas, and interpret underlying messages. Such activities foster intellectual curiosity and help learners move beyond surface-level understanding of language toward deeper analytical thinking.

Moreover, reading promotes cultural awareness and intercultural competence. English texts—whether literary works, news articles, or online materials—reflect the cultures, traditions, and values of English-speaking communities. Through reading, learners gain insight into different perspectives and ways of life. This cultural understanding enhances communication because language is inseparable from culture. By reading about people, customs, and ideas from around the world, learners develop tolerance, empathy, and a global outlook.

There are generally two main types of reading used in language learning: intensive reading and extensive reading. Intensive reading focuses on short texts studied in detail, where students pay attention to language forms, vocabulary, and comprehension questions. It is useful for classroom practice

and accuracy. Extensive reading, on the other hand, involves reading longer texts for general understanding and enjoyment. It helps learners read fluently, build confidence, and develop a habit of reading in English. Combining both approaches allows students to achieve balance—accuracy through intensive reading and fluency through extensive reading.

Motivation is another key aspect connected to reading. When learners are encouraged to read materials that interest them—such as stories, blogs, comics, or short novels—they feel more engaged and willing to continue learning. Reading can transform from a school task into a personal hobby that promotes lifelong learning. Teachers can play a significant role by creating a positive reading environment: introducing classroom libraries, recommending age-appropriate materials, and allowing students to choose what they read. Autonomy in selecting reading materials increases motivation and responsibility for one’s own learning.

Technology also supports modern reading practices. With the availability of e-books, online newspapers, and digital libraries, learners have access to a wide range of authentic English materials anytime and anywhere. Interactive reading platforms and applications allow readers to check meanings instantly, listen to audio versions, and practice comprehension exercises, which make reading more accessible and engaging.

Reading is not just a passive activity; it is a dynamic process that integrates language input with mental and emotional engagement. It builds linguistic knowledge, enhances creativity, and strengthens memory. Regular reading also improves pronunciation and speaking because learners develop an internal model of how words sound and how sentences are naturally constructed. Students who read regularly often demonstrate better academic performance and confidence in using English for communication.

Conclusion: In conclusion, reading plays a multifaceted role in learning English. It enriches vocabulary, strengthens grammar, enhances writing, and

promotes cultural and intellectual growth. Both intensive and extensive reading are essential for balanced language development. Teachers should encourage students to read widely and frequently, using materials that suit their interests and proficiency levels. A learner who reads consistently becomes not only more fluent but also more motivated, independent, and culturally aware. Ultimately, reading serves as a gateway to mastering the English language and developing lifelong learning skills.

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