



ENHANCING READING COMPREHENSION IN ESL LEARNERS

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Annotation: *This article explores effective strategies for enhancing reading comprehension in ESL (English as a Second Language) learners. Reading is a fundamental skill that supports vocabulary development, grammar acquisition, and overall language proficiency. The paper discusses key approaches such as pre-reading, while-reading, and post-reading activities, the use of authentic materials, and the role of vocabulary instruction. Special attention is given to the importance of critical thinking and student engagement in the reading process. The article is particularly relevant for academic lyceums, where students need strong reading skills for academic success.*

Аннотация: *Данная статья посвящена эффективным способам развития навыков понимания прочитанного у изучающих английский язык как иностранный. Чтение является важным аспектом обучения, способствующим расширению словарного запаса, усвоению грамматики и общему языковому развитию. В статье рассматриваются основные этапы работы с текстом: до чтения, во время чтения и после чтения, использование аутентичных материалов, а также роль лексики. Особое внимание уделяется развитию критического мышления и вовлеченности учащихся. Статья актуальна для академических лицеев, где навыки чтения играют важную роль в учебной деятельности.*

Key Words: *Reading comprehension, ESL learners, English language teaching, vocabulary development, critical thinking, authentic materials, reading strategies, academic lyceum, language skills, student engagement.*



Ключевые слова: Понимание прочитанного, изучающие английский язык, обучение английскому языку, развитие словарного запаса, критическое мышление, аутентичные материалы, стратегии чтения, академический лицей, языковые навыки, вовлеченность учащихся.

Main Part

Reading comprehension is a crucial component of learning English as a Second Language (ESL). It enables students to understand written texts, acquire new vocabulary, and develop critical thinking skills. In academic lyceums, where students are required to work with complex academic texts, improving reading comprehension is especially important.

One of the most effective approaches to teaching reading is the use of three stages: pre-reading, while-reading, and post-reading activities. Pre-reading activities help students prepare for the text by activating their background knowledge and introducing key vocabulary. For example, teachers may ask questions about the topic or show related images to stimulate interest.

While-reading activities focus on understanding the text. Students may be asked to identify the main idea, find specific information, or answer comprehension questions. These tasks help learners develop strategies such as skimming (reading for general understanding) and scanning (reading for specific details).

Post-reading activities encourage deeper analysis and critical thinking. Students can discuss the text, express their opinions, or summarize the main points. These activities not only improve comprehension but also develop speaking and writing skills.

Vocabulary development plays a significant role in reading comprehension. Without sufficient vocabulary knowledge, students may struggle to understand even simple texts. Teachers should introduce new words in context and encourage students to use them in different situations. Techniques such as word mapping and repetition can be helpful.

Another important factor is the use of authentic materials. Texts such as articles, stories, and online content expose students to real-life language. This makes



learning more engaging and prepares learners for real-world communication. In academic lyceums, authentic materials can also help students get used to academic language and formats.

Student engagement is essential for successful reading instruction. Teachers should select interesting and relevant texts that match students' interests and levels. Interactive activities, such as group discussions and projects, can increase motivation and participation.

However, there are some challenges in teaching reading comprehension. Students may lack motivation, have limited vocabulary, or find texts too difficult. To address these issues, teachers should adapt materials to students' levels and provide support when necessary. Encouragement and positive feedback are also important in helping students build confidence.

Conclusion

In conclusion, enhancing reading comprehension in ESL learners requires a structured and student-centered approach. By using pre-reading, while-reading, and post-reading activities, developing vocabulary, and incorporating authentic materials, teachers can significantly improve students' reading skills. In academic lyceums, these strategies are especially important for preparing students for academic success. With proper guidance and practice, learners can become confident and independent readers.

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