

HOW READING IMPROVE ENGLISH SKILLS

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Abstract: This article examines the significant role of reading in improving English language skills. Based on research in Applied Linguistics, the study highlights how reading contributes to vocabulary acquisition, grammar development, cognitive growth, and overall language proficiency. The findings show that reading provides meaningful input, which is essential for effective language learning. The article also emphasizes the importance of extensive reading as a strategy to enhance fluency and comprehension. Scientific sources indicate that regular reading practice leads to long-term improvement in both receptive and productive language skills. Therefore, reading is considered a fundamental tool for mastering English.

Key words: reading, vocabulary acquisition, grammar development, language proficiency, extensive reading, comprehension, cognitive skills, English learning

Reading is widely recognized as one of the most effective ways to develop foreign language skills. Linguists such as Stephen Krashen and William Grabe argue that language acquisition largely depends on exposure to meaningful input, which reading provides in abundance. Unlike traditional memorization techniques, reading allows learners to engage with authentic language in context, making it a powerful tool for improving multiple aspects of English simultaneously.

Reading plays a central role in vocabulary development, as it exposes learners to new words in meaningful contexts. When students repeatedly encounter unfamiliar vocabulary in texts, they gradually understand not only the meanings but also the usage of these words. According to Nation (2001), vocabulary is more effectively acquired through contextual exposure rather than isolated memorization. In addition, recent research demonstrates that frequent reading enhances automatic word recognition and strengthens lexical networks in the brain. This process allows learners to use vocabulary more fluently and accurately over time. Furthermore, Stephen Krashen (1982) introduced the concept of “comprehensible input,” emphasizing that learners acquire language naturally when they understand messages slightly above their current level. As a result, reading becomes an essential source of language input that supports vocabulary growth in a natural and sustainable way.

In addition to vocabulary development, reading significantly contributes to grammar acquisition. Rather than learning grammatical rules explicitly, learners begin to recognize patterns through repeated exposure to well-structured sentences. Stephen Krashen (1981) argues that language is acquired through understanding input rather than through direct instruction. Similarly, William Grabe (2012) explains that reading involves the processing of complex sentence structures and discourse patterns, which helps learners internalize grammar subconsciously. Over time, this exposure leads to improved grammatical accuracy in both writing and speaking. Moreover, reading develops important strategies such as skimming, scanning, and inference-making, which further enhance learners’ ability to understand complex texts.

Beyond linguistic benefits, reading also plays a vital role in cognitive development. It encourages learners to think critically, analyze information, and make connections between ideas. According to Stephen Krashen (1988), reading enhances the ability to evaluate arguments and interpret meanings. These skills are essential not only for language learning but also for academic success in general. Furthermore, repeated reading practice improves comprehension skills by training learners to identify main ideas, understand relationships between concepts, and draw conclusions. Studies show that reading fluency

develops through continuous exposure to texts, leading to faster and more efficient information processing.

Finally, reading has a direct impact on overall language proficiency. It supports the development of all four language skills, including reading, writing, listening, and speaking. According to Stephen Krashen (1993), reading is a key factor in developing writing style, vocabulary, and even spelling. Learners who engage in extensive reading tend to become more confident and fluent in expressing their ideas. In addition, reading exposes learners to authentic language, including idiomatic expressions and cultural references, which are essential for effective communication. This exposure helps learners use English more naturally in real-life situations and improves their overall communicative competence.

In my opinion, reading is one of the most effective ways to improve English skills because it helps learners naturally develop vocabulary, grammar, and understanding of real-life language. I believe that through regular reading, students become more confident and independent, as they can learn new words and expressions without relying only on teachers. I also agree with Stephen Krashen that reading provides meaningful input for language acquisition, making the learning process more natural and effective. Therefore, even a small daily reading habit can lead to significant progress in mastering English.

In conclusion, reading is one of the most effective strategies for improving English skills. It enhances vocabulary, strengthens grammar, develops cognitive abilities, and improves overall language proficiency. Scientific research consistently supports the importance of reading as a fundamental component of language learning. Therefore, learners are encouraged to develop a regular reading habit to achieve long-term success in English.

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