

Reading Tips for TOEFL

English-language learners can improve their reading skills by reading regularly, especially university textbooks or other materials that cover a variety of subject areas (e.g., sciences, social sciences, arts, business, etc.) and are written in an academic style. A wide variety of academic texts are available on the Internet as well as in magazines and journals.

Reading to Find Information

- Scan passages to find and highlight key facts (dates, numbers, terms) and information.
- Practice frequently to increase reading rate and fluency.

Reading for Basic Comprehension

- Increase vocabulary. Flashcards can help.
- Practice skimming a passage quickly to get a general impression of the main idea instead of carefully reading each word and each sentence.
- Develop the ability to skim quickly and identify major points.
- After skimming a passage, read it again more carefully and write down the main idea, major points, and important facts.
- Choose some unfamiliar words in the passage and guess the meaning from the context (surrounding sentences). Then, look them up to determine their meaning.
- Underline all pronouns (e.g., *he*, *him*, *they*, *them*, etc.) and identify the nouns to which they refer in the passage.
- Practice making inferences and drawing