



Effective Reading Skill



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Active Reading by SQ3R method

Challenge

Have you ever read a passage and realized that you haven't taken in any of it? If you have, you've been reading passively and not engaging with the material. To make the most of your studying time you need to read ACTIVELY.

What is happening when you read?

When you read, your eyes move in a series of quick jumps along the line of print. The number of words you read depends on your eye span and your word recognition skills. You instantly recognise familiar words of their shape. Your brain synthesises the words on the page, the meaning, and the rules of grammar without us being consciously aware. You are always aware of the context. For example, you know the sentence 'the technician replaced a chip in my computer' is not about potato chips. When you come to a word you don't know, you use the context to predict or guess the meaning. You summarise information, gaining an overall picture of the content. Your comprehension is influenced by your cultural background and individual experiences that you bring to it.

Active Reading by SQ3R method

The study system is named as SQ3R so that it will be easily remembered. The system consists of 5-steps process namely Survey, Question, Read, Recite and Review.

Survey

This involves quickly skimming through the reading material, taking note of titles, sub-headings, pictures or charts and other key words such as words in bold-face.

This step is very important because it gives an overview of the reading material, without which it is easy to lose one's direction when reading.



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Question

Titles and sub-headings can be turned into simple questions using the basic question words 5'W's of 'Who', 'What', 'Why', 'When', 'Where' and 1'H' of 'How'. The purpose of this step is to make the reading exercise more active. That is you will be actively looking for the answers to the question formulated.

If you read actively, the benefits from reading will be greater. In other words, this step helps you to concentrate on your reading material.

Read

When reading the section of the material, do so carefully so as to elicit the answers to your questions. In this way, you should cover all the sections of your reading material.

Recite

After you have completed a section, you should spend some time trying to recall the main points of that section. If necessary, you should re-read that section until you can recite all the main points.

It might be a good idea to write down all the questions formulated and answers to them on a piece of paper or card. This will facilitate the next step, which is review.

The importance of reciting can be seen in the results of number of experiments. These experiments indicated that students who spend more time reciting can remember more than those who just read and read. On the other hand, you can also teach or share with your friends or classmates about what you have read. This will also help in retention of the things learnt.

Review

Now that you've completed your reading material, you should attempt to recall all the main points in it. This exercise will assist you in linking up all the various section, which will enhance understanding of the material.



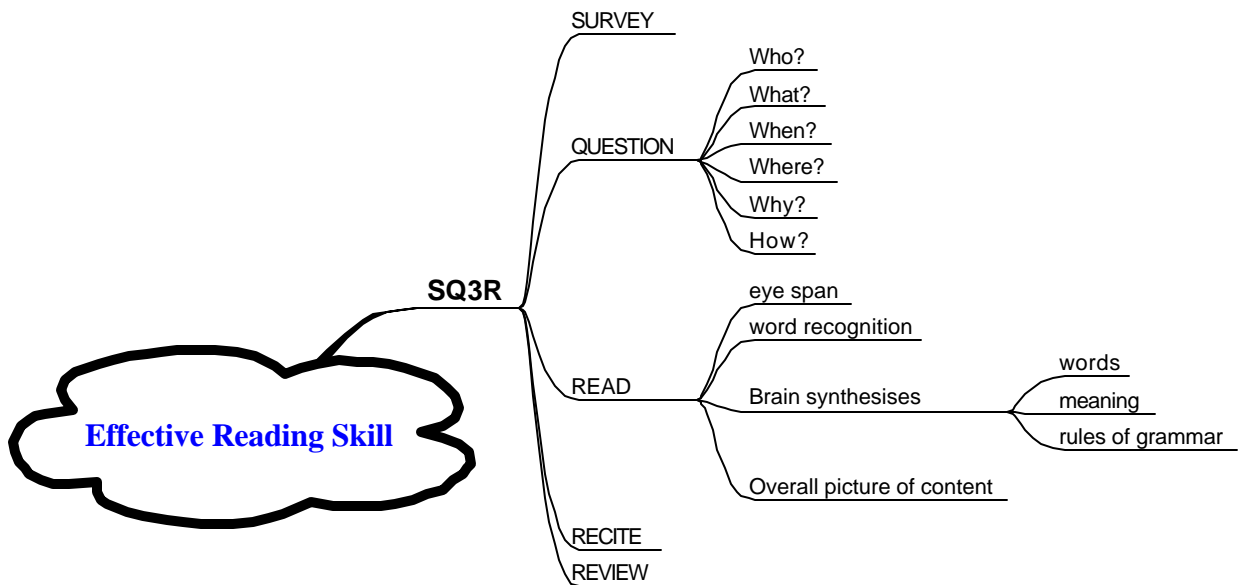
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Summary

The following mind-map summarizes the SQ3R active reading method. It gives an overview of the content discussed in this paper.



Conclusion

The purpose of reading is to gather information and gain knowledge. The more you know about a piece of material, the faster you master what is in it. By applying the SQ3R method of active reading will enable you to know about the material you are reading within limited amount of time. As the saying goes "Practise makes perfect", you need to practise it in order to master the skill. The more you do, you will be able to focus on your reading and get better result.



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