

English for Study Skills

Pre-Sessional English

Lesson objectives

Part 1: identifying the main idea of a text

Part 2: understanding lectures

identify main ideas

Lesson objective

Improving reading skills

Identify the main points in a text

Understand how to paraphrase

introduction

- Take notes
- Identify the main idea and the main points
- Write in your own words
- Why is this useful?
 - Reading (e.g. research)
 - Listening (e.g. lecture)

Improve your reading skills

How to improve your reading comprehension

Comprehension means understanding

How to improve your reading comprehension

Set a purpose for reading:

Before starting to read a text, you should identify why they are reading it.

This helps them to focus on the important information and stay engaged throughout the reading process.

How to improve your reading comprehension

Active reading:

Engage with the text.

This includes underlining or highlighting important information, taking notes, and summarizing key points.

How to improve your reading comprehension

Build vocabulary:

Students with a larger vocabulary tend to have better reading comprehension.

Look up unfamiliar words and practice using them in their writing and conversation.

How to improve your reading comprehension

Practice summarizing:

After reading a passage, practice summarizing what you read in your own words.

This helps to reinforce your understanding of the material and identify any areas that you may need to review.

How to improve your reading comprehension

Read regularly:

The more you read, the better they become at comprehension.

Read a variety of texts, including books, news articles, and academic journals.

How to improve your reading comprehension

Monitor comprehension:

Learn to monitor your own comprehension as you read.

Recognize when you don't understand something and taking steps to clarify it, such as re-reading, asking questions, or looking up information.

monitor - check your progress

monitor comprehension - check your progress of understanding

Main idea

Main idea

"The sun is very important for life on Earth. It provides light and warmth that plants and animals need to survive. Without the sun, there would be no life on Earth."

Main idea

"The sun is very important for life on Earth. **It provides light and warmth that plants and animals need to survive.** Without the sun, there would be no life on Earth."

Task

Read the passage

Identify the main points

Dogs - vocabulary

A **loyal pet** is an animal that loves you very much and always stays with you, like a really good friend.

Unconditional love means that your pet will love you no matter what, without expecting anything in return, just because they care about you.

Protectors are people or animals that keep you safe from harm or danger.

Disabilities refer to physical or mental conditions that may limit a person's ability to do certain things

Companions are friends or animals that you spend time with and enjoy being around.

Dogs

Read the following passage

Identify the main points

"Dogs are loyal pets. They are known for their unconditional love and loyalty to their owners. Dogs are also great protectors and can help keep their owners safe. Some dogs are even trained to assist people with disabilities. Overall, dogs make wonderful pets and companions."

Dogs - review

Main points:

- ▶ Dogs are loyal pets
- ▶ They are known for their unconditional love and loyalty to their owners
- ▶ Dogs are great protectors and can help keep their owners safe
- ▶ Some dogs are trained to assist people with disabilities
- ▶ Overall, dogs make wonderful pets and companions

To paraphrase

Write points in your own words

To paraphrase means to express the same idea in a different way.

When you paraphrase, you use your own words to convey the same meaning as the original text, without copying it word-for-word.

It's like re-telling a story in your own words.

Paraphrasing example - family

Family is a group of people who are related to each other. They usually live together and take care of each other. Families can be big or small, and they can include parents, brothers and sisters, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Family

Family is a group of people who are related to each other. They usually live together and take care of each other. Families can be big or small, and they can include parents, brothers and sisters, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins.

- Family is a group of people who are related to each other.
- Families live together and take care of each other.
- Families can have different sizes and include different family members.
- *Families are made up of people who love and support each other.*

Family - summary (paraphrased)

Family is a group of people who are related to each other and care for each other. It can be made up of different family members and is important because it provides love, comfort, and security to these members.

Dogs - summarize

Write a summary of these points in your own words

- ▶ Dogs are loyal pets
- ▶ They are known for their unconditional love and loyalty to their owners
- ▶ Dogs are great protectors and can help keep their owners safe
- ▶ Some dogs are trained to assist people with disabilities
- ▶ Overall, dogs make wonderful pets and companions

Dogs - example

Dogs are popular pets known for their loyalty, unconditional love, and ability to protect their owners.

Some dogs are trained to assist people with disabilities, making them even more valuable companions.

Overall, dogs make wonderful pets and great friends.

Questions?

Understanding Lectures

Lesson objective

Improving listening skills for academic purposes

Explain the importance of being able to understand lectures and academic language in university, and the challenges that students face.

Introduction

Help to understand lectures

We may not understand everything in a lecture

How can we help ourselves?

Understanding lectures

Note-taking skills:

- take effective notes during lectures,
- including how to identify and record important information
- how to organize notes

Vocabulary building:

- academic vocabulary
- develop strategies for learning and retaining new words.

Understanding lectures

Listening comprehension:

- practice your listening skills,
 - listening to recordings (e.g. lectures, discussions, or interviews)
 - answer comprehension questions

Active listening:

- ask questions, clarify information, and make connections between different ideas.

What is active listening?

How to improve your reading comprehension

Remember Active reading?

Engage with the text.

This includes underlining or highlighting important information, taking notes, and summarizing key points.

We can also do this for listening

Active listening

- Being **fully present** in the conversation
- Showing interest by practicing **good eye contact**
- Noticing (and using) **non-verbal cues**
- Asking **open-ended questions** to encourage further responses
- Paraphrasing and **reflecting back** what has been said
- **Listening to understand** rather than to respond

Engage with 'the text'

We don't have a text

But we might know what is in a lecture

We can preview the lesson

And the structure of the lesson (what are the sections)

We can use **pre-listening strategies**

Improve your listening skills
- before

pre-listening strategies

- scanning the lecture slides,
- reading the syllabus or course outline,
- and looking up unfamiliar vocabulary.

Example: We have a lecture about SWOT analysis

How can we use pre-listening strategies?

pre-listening strategies

Vocabulary - Search online

SWOT means strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats

What do these mean?

SWOT analysis is used for assessing a business, for planning and strategy

What do these mean?

We now know something about what we are about to hear

Improve your listening skills
- during

Note taking

Be prepared:

- Make sure you have all the necessary materials before the lecture, including pens, paper, and any textbooks or handouts.

Use a consistent format:

- Choose a note-taking format that works for you and stick to it throughout the lecture.
- This will help you organize your notes and review them later.

Note taking

Listen actively:

- Pay attention to the lecturer and try to understand the main points.
- If you don't understand something, don't be afraid to ask for clarity.

Focus on key ideas:

- Don't try to write down everything the lecturer says.
- Instead, focus on the main ideas and supporting details.

Note taking

Use abbreviations and symbols:

- Develop your own shorthand for common words and concepts to save time and space.

Write clearly and legibly:

- Make sure your notes are neat and easy to read. Use bullet points, headings, and subheadings to organize your notes.

Review your notes:

- After the lecture, review your notes to make sure you understand the material.
- Fill in any gaps and clarify any unclear points.

Note taking

Compare notes with classmates:

- Compare your notes with those of your classmates to ensure you have not missed anything important.

Use technology:

- Consider using a laptop or tablet to take notes if you are comfortable with technology.
- This can be a faster and more efficient way to take notes.

Note taking

Remember, note-taking is a personal process, and what works for one person may not work for another.

Experiment with different techniques until you find one that works for you.

Finally, don't be afraid to ask your professors for feedback on your note-taking skills, as they may have additional tips and suggestions.

Improve your listening skills
- after

post-listening strategies

- reviewing the notes,
- summarizing the main points,
- discussing the lecture with peers or the instructor

Example lecture

listening strategies

Spend 5 minutes preparing for a short lesson on SWOT analysis

Prepare to take notes

- Listen to the video
- Note what you think is important
- Discuss this with other students

Create a summary

- with a partner or a group
- Create a summary, in your own words
- Include all the important information

Listening & writing exercise

Task

- watch and listen to a short video
- take notes

we will discuss what we think is important

- work together to re-write the notes
- complete the work by finishing with a small summary

Discussion & questions

Thank you!
any questions?