

READING ACTIVITY-1

READING TECHNICAL TEXTS* (Previewing*)

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- Objective** : Enabling readers to preview and deal with jargons to comprehend the technical text faster and easier
- Participation** : Individual
- Material:** Any technical text (a brochure)
- Preparation** : Previewing to be the first step to enter into texts and engaging with texts from their chosen field as often as possible with a special focus on the technical vocabulary and other discourse features.

Procedure:

- Take any technical text and start with surveying whatever that stands out of pages such as title, subtitles, highlighted parts, summaries, bulleted points, tables, graphs, pictures and any other visual material to get a feel of the entire text. This has to be done as quickly as possible. While running against time this exercise itself can familiarize one with all the vital details.
- Quickly read through the note on the author, introduction, foreword, contents page, index and blurbs/teasers which would highlight certain significant details. Previewing tend to ignore these parts.
- Focus on jargons as the comprehension of a technical text largely depends on them. In case of any doubt, one has to get them clarified by any means before proceeding further as comprehension would become murkier without their comprehension.
- Now, move through the text as fast as possible as previewing would have made the key ideas clear and it also facilitates the process of getting them reinforced. A final quick re-viewing (glance) of the whole text generates a mind map to retain the ideas longer.

Learning outcomes:

- 1) Learners understand that reading is not mechanically consuming meaning but creating meaning through their interaction and transaction with a text.
- 2) Learners recognize that previewing is an effective strategy for dealing with technical texts as they usually contain visual materials.

Further activity: Reading every possible technical texts belonging to their field as frequently as possible with previewing as a strategy.

***Technical texts:** A technical text is one that imparts technical knowledge to a specified audience with an expertise in the field. There are different kinds of technical texts ranging from as simple as a recipe to as complex as computer circuit making. These texts are often filled with jargons and written from an objective point of view.

Technical texts are often accompanied by charts, diagrams, illustrations, and other visual elements that support the texts and provide additional information about the subject. There is a total avoidance of humour, vague terms, literary language and interrogative and imperative sentences.

***Previewing:** It's a reading strategy to preview a text by surveying the title, section/chapter headings, subheadings and all available visuals to get a sense of content and structure of the reading material. This can pique readers' interest, thereby motivating them to read and to stay focused on key information.