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Strategies for Increasing Reading Comprehension

- Read a sentence at a time and then tell in your own words what the author has said. As session proceeds, increase the amount of material read to several sentences, a brief paragraph, a long paragraph, a whole page, to a whole chapter.
- Identify the main ideas and important details.
- Read the introduction or title to a chapter and then anticipate what the author is going to say. After you have read a passage, notice the difference between your version and the actual one.
- Compose appropriate titles for paragraphs, chapters, or short selections. The title should be concise and convey exactly what the passage is about.
- When a book has a subheading in dark print, use the heading as a question and read to find the answer to the question.
- Underline sentences in a paragraph that represent the main idea.
- Write down all the details from a paragraph. Then classify the details as to: important, helpful but not necessary, and unimportant.
- After you read a passage, think about similar experiences you have encountered.
- Predict outcomes of a page, chapter, or passage.
- Write down sentences of facts or procedures, mix them up, and then arrange them according to the order they occurred in the passage.
- Discuss the author's use of pictures, graphs, charts, and diagrams to clarify certain concepts.
- Skim a chapter by reviewing vocabulary, tables, and illustrations to build up a background of information on a subject before you read the chapter.
- Get a study partner to ask you questions about various concepts studied. Your attempt to explain a concept to another person will help you to better understand the concept yourself.