

Ten Steps to Improving College Reading Skills

By Aseel Kanakri

Ten Steps to Improving College Reading Skills by John Langan is one the best books used nowadays in ESL reading classes. It is designed to teach English learners academic reading skills needed for success in college. This book is appropriate for upper-intermediate and advanced reading classes in intensive English language programs. The approach of the book, in which each chapter focuses on one skill and provides students with many exercises and reading passages to help them master that skill, makes it very accessible and easy to use. It also integrates reading and writing exercises. For example, there are whole chapters that teach students the difference between topics, main ideas, central points, major supporting details, and minor supporting details. Knowledge of these elements and their usage is essential for students to write essays in the writing classes. Another aspect that makes this book a great choice for reading teachers is its focus on extensive reading. It has over 650 pages that consist of hundreds of passages for reading both in and outside the classroom. Many of the topics of the readings in the book are general-knowledge-based; therefore, the students usually have some background knowledge of what they read and can make meaningful connections to the new material from their prior knowledge.

The skills taught in this book, including main ideas, sentence relationships, implied central points and making inferences, are badly needed by upper-intermediate and advanced ESL learners especially those planning to take academic classes afterwards. The book makes learning these skills fun by using a wide variety of current and interesting topics like human relationships and behavior, college athletes, college education, modern science and technology (Langan, 2014).

One more reason for using this textbook is the myriad of activities and exercises. Most of these activities are multiple-choice questions, which make doing them in class fast and easy. Due to the huge and extensive amount of exercises in the book, the teacher would not need to supplement the text with any outside material. The activities are good for in-class practice and for homework too. Each chapter has six review tests and six mastery tests. Teachers can choose to have the students answer the review tests in class and the

mastery tests at home. For testing, the book itself is supplemented with a test bank that has a big variety of tests and additional exercises. The author also lists the textbook's website, www.townsendpress.com, as a place where teachers and students can find additional resources like online presentations, extra tests, and PowerPoints.

The book also has many extensive reading passages which help students develop critical thinking skills and not only language skills. The teacher is not required to cover everything in the book because it is huge, so she can simply cherry-pick exercises and passages. It also has combined skills tests at the end which the teacher can use for extra out-of-class practice. The topics in this textbook are interesting and current and could stimulate some real discussion in an advanced ESL classroom. Overall, I have found this book to be of a great benefit to my advanced ESL reading class. My students enjoyed many of the readings in the book and regularly had very interesting discussions. They never had any trouble or difficulty working on the exercises which were mostly straightforward and self-explanatory, especially the fill in the blanks and the multiple choice questions. I am sure that *Ten Steps to Improving College Reading Skills* would be a very good textbook for any upper-intermediate or advanced ESL reading class. ☺

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Reference

Langan, J. (2014). *Ten Steps to Improving College Reading Skills* (6th Ed.). West Berlin, NJ: Townsend Press.

Reading Skills For College Students

Ophelia H. Hancock



Reading Skills For College Students:

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College and Beyond Deborah J. Kellner, 2017-12-06 *Reading Strategies for College and Beyond* provides students with simple practical reading strategies designed to improve comprehension of academic works and promote collegiate success. Grounded in an understanding that academic textbooks can be structurally complex, this book presents reading strategies that help students develop their critical thinking skills, comprehension, and recall abilities. Throughout 20 interactive modules, students learn how to break up large amounts of text and information from a variety of disciplines into manageable, accessible chunks. They also learn how to recognize the key features of a text, identify visual cues, remain active and engaged while reading, and more. As students learn new reading strategies, they are tasked with applying them to reading assignments from their own college courses. Through practical application, students learn that reading is not a passive process but rather an active one influenced by what they bring to the text, how they prepare to read, and what they do while reading. *Reading Strategies for College and Beyond* eases the transition from high school to college and is an excellent resource for students who wish to approach higher education textbooks or any educational resource with confidence and know how. *Reading Skills for College* Hancock, 1998 **Reading Skills for College Students 6/e and PH TASP Study Guide for Writing Package** Ophelia H. Hancock, 2003-06 Improving Reading Skills Helen Jorstad, 1988 *Improving Reading Skills: Contemporary Readings for College Students* Deanne Spears, 2003-07-29 Popular source selections that challenge and engage make *Improving Reading Skills* an ideal text for introductory developmental reading students. *Reading Skills for College Students* Elizabeth L. Chesla, 1997-12 **The Effects of a Study Skills Course on Study and Reading Skills of College Students** Amanda Bunch, 1984 *30 Amazing Reading and Learning Strategies for College Students* Kay Lopate, Patsy Trand, 2017-09-30 *The 30 Amazing Reading and Learning Strategies for College Students* is an amazing book. It is written for the college student who wants to enjoy learning and who wants to begin earning better grades. Do you study by doing the same thing, such as memorizing and rereading the textbook over and over and then forgetting the information a few days later? Do you often complain how studying can be boring? Do your grades reflect the time and effort you spend studying? *The 30 Amazing Reading and Learning Strategies for College Students* helps students learn the material for their college subject courses in efficient ways. The easy-to-learn strategies require no extra time, materials, work, or instruction. Students are actively involved, and they can easily monitor their own learning. The authors have cleverly designed a GPS, *Getting the Perfect Strategy*, which helps students fit the assignment or task with the perfect strategy. Each of the thirty strategies plus eight bonus strategies instructs students with easy-to-follow directions. The eight bonus strategies are specific for those courses that give students the most trouble: Mathematics and English composition. Upon completion of an assignment using the strategy, the result is a finished product which can be used, if desired, for grading. Most of the strategies are original; you won't find them anywhere else, although we included some which have been around awhile. A Proposed Method for Increasing Reading Comprehension Skills of College Students Barbara JoAnn Brauen, 1963 **Improving Reading Skills**

Deanne Spears, 2009 The seventh edition offers students insightful engaging contemporary selections that to challenge them and to make them want to turn the page The book's subtitle Contemporary Readings for College Students reflects the nature of the book In addition to acquiring skills students will learn something about the world as they read In addition to the readings the book includes a wide variety of practice exercises to reinforce good reading skills and to help students develop a college level vocabulary This basic principle high interest contemporary readings and useful exercises has accounted

Reading Skills for College Robert F. Cohen, Judy L. Miller, 2014 The Longman Academic Reading Series is a five level series that prepares English language learners for academic work The aim of the series is to make students more effective and confident readers by providing high interest readings on academic subjects and by teaching them skills and strategies for effective reading vocabulary building note taking and critical thinking The series also encourages students to discuss and write about the ideas they discovered in the readings making them better speakers and writers of English as well Features Readings based on academic sources Every reading in the text focuses on an academic subject and is chosen with the intent of providing different and intriguing perspectives on the theme Multiple reading genres Readings come from a variety of sources or genres from textbooks to on line articles and are written by a variety of experts from widely different fields Explicit academic skills From critical reading to vocabulary building note taking and critical thinking the Longman Academic Reading Series provides students with a holistic approach to effective reading Corpus Informed approach to vocabulary AWL Students build vocabulary and acquire skills that will help them become more confident and successful in preparing for their academic work **Decoding Skills of College Students in Relation to Reading Comprehension** Meryl Sue Baker, 1977

Enhancing Reading and Thinking Skills of College Students Ma. Rosario R. Aranda, 2011 Basic Skills and Strategies for College Reading Jane L. McGrath, 2002 *Ten Steps to Advancing College Reading Skills* John Langan, 1989 A textbook in English reading comprehension for college students

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