

READING DIFFICULT / AUTHENTIC ARTICLES IN ENGLISH

Before reading: Read related articles in English first.

Reading an academic article on nuclear proliferation? Find English-language materials about the key issues. Make notes of new coavbulary and new concepts, using only English. *Then, use this guide to read more difficult material (book chapters, journal articles etc).*

1) SKIM

First get the "big picture" by reading the title, key words and abstract carefully; this will tell you the major findings and why they matter.



- Quickly scan the article without taking notes; focus on headings and subheadings.
- Note the publishing date; for many areas, current research is more relevant.
- Note any terms and parts you don't understand for further reading.

2) RE-READ

Read the article again, asking yourself questions such as;

- What problem is the study trying to solve?
- Are the findings well supported by evidence?
- Are the findings unique and supported by other work in the field?
- What was the sample size? Is it representative of the larger population?
- Is the study repeatable?
- What factors might affect the results?

If you are unfamiliar with key concepts, look for them or the literature.



3) INTERPRET

- Examine graphs and tables carefully.
- Try to interpret data first before looking at captions.
- When reading the discussion and results, look for key issues and new findings
- Make sure you have distinguished the main points. If not, go over the text again.



4) SUMMARIZE

- Take notes; it improves reading comprehension and helps you remember key points
- If you have a printed version, highlight key points and write on the article. If it's on screen, make use of markers and comments.

