

UNIT 5: Teaching Reading Skills

Lecture Notes

1. Approaches to Reading Instruction: Intensive vs. Extensive Reading

Intensive Reading

- Focuses on **careful and detailed analysis** of short texts in the classroom.
- Emphasizes **vocabulary, grammar, sentence structure, and precise comprehension.**
- Teacher-guided activities include:
 - Vocabulary clarification
 - Comprehension questions
 - Text analysis
- Helps learners understand **how language functions in written discourse** (Jeremy Harmer).

Short

note:

Intensive reading is primarily used to develop linguistic accuracy and analytical reading skills. It allows learners to focus on specific language features while improving their understanding of the text.

Extensive Reading

- Involves reading **large amounts of material** for **general understanding and enjoyment.**
- Examples of materials:
 - Graded readers
 - Novels
 - Articles or magazines
- Learners usually **choose texts based on their interests and level.**
- Encourages **reading fluency, speed, and motivation.**

Short

note:

Extensive reading promotes natural language acquisition through exposure to meaningful texts. According to Stephen Krashen, frequent exposure to comprehensible input supports vocabulary growth and language development.

2. Developing Reading Comprehension

Skimming

- Reading **quickly to understand the general idea** of a text.
- Focus on:
 - Titles
 - Headings
 - Topic sentences
 - Keywords
- Often used **at the beginning of a reading lesson**.

Short

note:

Skimming helps learners predict content and identify the main theme of a text without reading every detail.

Scanning

- Reading **quickly to locate specific information**.
- Readers search for:
 - Names
 - Dates
 - Numbers
 - Key terms
- Common in academic and real-life reading tasks.

Short

note:

Scanning develops learners' ability to retrieve precise information efficiently from different types of texts.

Detailed Reading

- Careful and **thorough analysis of a text**.
- Focus on:
 - Vocabulary meaning
 - Sentence structure
 - Logical relationships
 - Inference and interpretation
- Often includes **comprehension questions and discussion**.

Short

note:

Detailed reading helps learners develop deeper understanding and critical interpretation skills (Christine Nuttall).

3. Teaching Strategies for Reading Fluency

Reading Aloud

- Students read a text **orally in class**.
- Benefits:
 - Improves pronunciation
 - Reinforces connection between written and spoken language
 - Allows teacher feedback
- Should be used **selectively**.

Short

note:

Reading aloud can support pronunciation and expressive reading, but excessive use may slow down comprehension.

Silent Reading

- Learners read **independently and quietly**.
- Encourages:
 - Faster reading
 - Better comprehension
 - Learner autonomy
- Often used in **extensive reading programs**.

Short

note:

Silent reading reflects authentic reading practices and supports vocabulary growth and reading fluency.

Reading Circles (Literature Circles)

- Small groups discuss a **shared text**.
- Each student may take a role such as:
 - Summarizer
 - Questioner
 - Vocabulary finder
 - Discussion leader

Short

note:

Reading circles encourage collaborative learning, deeper text analysis, and student-centered interaction.

4. Integrating Reading into Overall Lesson Planning

Reading should be integrated with **other language skills (speaking, listening, and writing)** rather than taught in isolation.

Three Stages of a Reading Lesson

Pre-Reading

- Activates background knowledge.
- Introduces key vocabulary.
- Establishes a purpose for reading.

Examples: brainstorming, prediction, discussion.

While-Reading

- Focuses on **understanding the text**.
 - Learners apply reading strategies such as:
 - Skimming
 - Scanning
 - Identifying main ideas
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Post-Reading

- Extends understanding of the text.
- Activities may include:
 - Discussion
 - Writing summaries
 - Debates or problem-solving tasks.

Short

note:

Integrating reading with other language activities helps learners use new vocabulary and ideas in meaningful communication.

Key Takeaway

Effective reading instruction combines:

- **Intensive and extensive reading**
- **Strategic comprehension skills**
- **Fluency-building activities**
- **Integration with other language skills**

These practices help learners become **independent, efficient, and critical readers** in academic and real-world contexts.