

In the Name of God
The Compassionate the Merciful

Improve
Your
Reading
Skills

Abbas Kamalinejad

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Preface

Welcome to *Improve Your Reading Skills*. This book is intended for learners who study English as a foreign language encompasses a range of interesting topics.

Improve Your Reading Skills is a useful workbook for English language learners, especially EFL/ESL learners all over the world. This book will be of great help for candidates of English language proficiency tests such as IELTS, TOFEL, GRE, and SAT.

The purpose of this book:

First: is to help readers improve their reading in English, develop their awareness and use of reading strategies, and increase their academic vocabulary that will prepare the ground for digesting academic or college texts through doing the related exercises following each text.

Second: is to help learners develop their reading skills and, as a result, be able to have autonomous reading of various text types in out-of-class contexts.

Third: it teaches the learner how to read with a purpose for comprehension and how to interact with the text as they read.

Improve Your Reading Skills comprises eight units, each focusing on a reading text taken from the internet, different magazines, and books. The texts have been selected considering the learners' interests, the amount of information they impart. Each unit begins by involving the learners in the topic of the reading text by posing some pre-reading questions. They are intended to activate the learners' background knowledge and arouse their interest in the topic. To put in other words each unit contains a pre-reading section introducing a picture related to the topic of the text; the picture is followed by some questions that encourage learners to think about what they already know and to share their own thought and experiences. The matching activity introduces learners to new or unfamiliar words they will see in the reading text. Scanning strategy encourages learners to make prediction about specific piece of information that appears in the text. The aim is to motivate learners to read the text quickly as try to find the answer.

Each text is then followed by reading comprehension exercises that require learners to demonstrate their understanding of the text and to use their higher-level thinking skills to analyze and synthesize new information. Each unit is finally concluded with the number of vocabulary exercises aiming at reviewing

the new words introduced in the text and making them familiar with different parts of speech of the words.

The learner read the each text in order to, first, understand as much of the text as possible and then answer the different types of reading comprehension questions that aim at ensuring thorough understanding of what they have read.

The reading comprehension section exercises consist of three to four parts: true/false items, and multiple-choice items, essay type and etc. The learners also have the chance to increase their vocabulary by dealing with new words of the text in new contexts. The vocabulary section of the exercises consists of five parts: 1. synonym matching exercises, 2. fill in the blanks exercises, 3. multiple-choice recognition exercises, 4. mind map, and 5. parts of speech exercises. It is emphasized that all the sentences used in this part are authentic and have been extracted from English dictionaries. A cloze passage follows the vocabulary section of each text in order to test learners' overall knowledge of language and provide them with more information on the topic of each unit. At the end of each unit there are some extra activity exercises requiring learners to perform some task-based reading activities.

A lot of energy and thought have been put into the compilation of the texts, writing of the exercises, performing of the pilot-studies, and editing the units hoping that this book can satisfy learners' needs in terms of improving their reading skills and acquiring a large body of vocabulary. However, I have no claim as to the perfection of this book. I accept the responsibility for all the potential defects and shortcomings and welcome all constructive suggestions and criticisms for future editions.

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