

## Try these techniques if you want to...

### ***Read Faster***

- Instead of reading word by word, read in chunks of words, or even full sentences. Skip filler words such as “the”, “to”, “with”, etc.
- Don’t reread text you have already read.
- Try to skim the text before you read it.
- Move your finger or an object along at a constant rate as you read.

### ***Vary Your Reading Speed***

- You CAN read faster-- you just have to train your brain to do this.
- Try varying your reading speed depending on what you need to accomplish:
  - Slow- presenting to entire class on this reading
  - Medium- participating in a class discussion
  - Fast- gaining background knowledge before you dive into other readings

### ***Read More Actively***

- Read while walking around the room or standing.
- Read for 15 minutes, summarize or draw what you read, take a 5 minute break, and then repeat until you finish the assigned reading.
- Take notes or draw diagrams in the margins while reading.

### ***Concentrate While Reading***

- Turn each chapter subheading into a question. While you read, look for the answers to these questions.
- Copy the questions at the end of the chapter and look for answers to the questions while you are reading.
- The faster you read the more your brain is forced to pay attention to what you are reading, so don’t just sit back and relax while you read.

### ***Create a Study Guide While Reading***

- Use a question and answer system with subheadings.
- Use the chapter outline from the text to test your knowledge.
- Make flashcards while you read.
- Make a concept map, and add to it as you read.

## Use these reading tips for better comprehension!

### **1. Read with a pen in your hand**

Use it as a pointer and pace yourself while you read.

### **2. Use that pen to mark passages**

Write questions, make checkmarks by each section you have read, circle unfamiliar vocabulary but don't underline (it is too easy to start underlining everything). When you write questions and mark the book, you are less likely to fall asleep!

### **3. Create possible test questions while you read**

Use the textbook set-up (table of contents, chapter subheadings, review questions) to help you find the key elements and create potential test questions. Practice critical thinking by asking, "If I know this to be true, what might happen when..."

### **4. Practice pre-reading**

Pre-reading means skimming the text for key vocabulary, themes, repeated words, names, etc. Pre-read to get an overview of the text, so that you have a better idea of what to look for when you read 'for real'. Occasionally, pre-reading can be done when you don't have time to completely read the assignment before the next class.

### **5. Don't read on the bed**

Find a comfortable spot to read – but not too comfortable! The best rule is to find a way to be both relaxed and alert; a chair that doesn't recline, a good reading light, and cool temperature are elements of an ideal reading situation. Remember, you don't need to be totally alone while you are studying, but it helps to be removed from tempting distractions such as the TV, phone, and internet.