**Reading with a Purpose**

Reading successfully means reading with a purpose i.e. before you start reading a selection, ask yourself why you are reading it and what you hope to learn from it. According to your purpose of reading, you may decide which part of the reading material should be overlooked and which one or ones should be read more carefully. In addition, the reading rate (speed) is flexible according to the following considerations:

-what is the purpose of your reading?

-How difficult is the material to comprehend?

-How familiar is the topic for you?

According to the purpose of reading you determine which reading strategy to use. Each strategy differs from the other in terms of the reading purpose and the reading rate. Accordingly, two types of strategies can be identified.

1. **Quick Selective Reading**

Reading selectively requires to be quick. Do not read the material word by word, but look for only what is relevant to your purpose. Selective reading can take one of two basic forms:

* 1. **Skimming**

It is a quick reading done for the general ideas i.e. the gist of the selection. For example, skimming a newspaper to decide which article to read. When skimming, it is necessary to read selected sentences in order to get the main idea and use textual clues such as punctuation marks, underlined words, headlines, subtitles, spacing …..etc.

Skimming may take one of three forms:

* **Previewing:** it is to read the material before you actually begin reading it. It is usually followed by a careful slow reading. You preview to select a book, survey a chapter, or search for appropriate material.
* **Over viewing**: it is getting a big picture, a view of the material. You use overviewing to get an overall sense of the content of an article or a book.
* **Reviewing:** when you review, you view again. It follows a previous reading. It is used to go back over a material to refresh your memory; especially before a test or exam.
  1. **Scanning**

Like skimming, scanning is also a quick reading strategy. However, in this case, the search is more focused. To scan is to read quickly in order to locate specific information. For example, you scan to find a name, or to find a doctor’s number in a document. We might scan a newspaper to find the final score for a sport event or to find where and when a lecture or an exhibition will be held.

1. **Slow Careful Reading**
   1. **Reading for Comprehension**

It is careful reading to understand the total meaning of the reading selection. At this level, the reader is able to summarize the author’s ideas but has not yet made a critical evaluation of these ideas.

* 1. **Critical Reading**

It demands that the reader makes judgments about what he reads. This kind of reading requires posing and answering questions such as “does my own experience (or one of another writer) support the writer’s idea?”, “ Do I/ Does another writer share the same point of view discussed in the material?”, “Am I convinced by the writer’s evidence?”