

AYDI EST.

Open Learning & Translation

2021-2022

First Year

Second Term



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Reading Comprehension

07.05.2022

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ReadingII 1.1

AYDI 2022

Hello everyone!

Introduction

- *What do we mean by reading and comprehension?*

→ When I comprehend a text, it means that I understand it completely.

What is expected in comprehending a text?

Student: To know the vocabulary.

Instructor: how can we know the vocabulary in a text?

Student: through translating the words?

Instructor: OK! Do you have always to translate the words or look them up in the dictionary?

Student: No! I know the meaning for the context.

Instructor: great! So we don't translate each word. Only the key words that we cannot understand the text without them.

Now we talked about vocabulary, what about other things that are expected from you?

Student: Maybe about grammar sometimes.

Student: The main idea.

Instructor: very good! When you read a text, you have to figure out what the main idea is and what the supporting ideas are. In the whole text, we have a main idea, and in each paragraph, we have a main idea. Each main idea has supporting ideas. We also have summarizing.

Now I am going to ask you a question. Do you think that when you have a text, some of you understand the text in different way that others understand it? Why we understand the text differently?

Student: because everyone has different background.

Instructor: very good! When we read a text, we connect what we read to our background knowledge. What knowledge you have determines how you understand the text. Sometimes it is according to your values, so everything inside you determines how you understand the text. Again we have some questions that you cannot understand it literally from the text, how do we answer such questions?

Through inferring. These are called inferential questions.

It means reading and understanding between the lines. What the writes wants us to understand.

Now I will write a very simple story and apply reading strategies

It is a simple story that you may read in children's stories.

Once two friends were walking through the forest. They knew that anything dangerous can happen to them at any time in the forest. So

they promised each other that they would remain united in any case of danger.

What do you expect this story is about?

Student: about friendship

Student: about adventure.

Instructor: what do you expect would happen to them?

Maybe they will face some difficulties or danger as we said in the first paragraph. And when we said they promised each other something, do you think that they will keep this promise? We will see!

What kind of danger do you think in the forest? Let us read.

Suddenly, they saw a large bear approaching them. One of the friends at once climbed a nearby tree. But the other one did not know how to climb. So being led by his common sense, he lay down on the ground breathless, pretending to be a dead man.

Actually it is a large bear.

Now what they face was a large bear. Did they keep the promise?

No. One of them fled and ran away and climbed a nearby tree while the other one didn't know how to climb. So, it is **loyalty crisis** here. Now what did the other man do?

Student: he pretended to be dead.

Instructor: Why he pretended to be dead?

Student: Because he knows that large bears don't eat or touch dead people.

Instructor: what do you think the bear do?

Student: it will sniff the person.

Instructor: yes! It will smell the person.

The bear came near the man lying on the ground. It smelt in his ears, and slowly left the place. Because the bears do not touch the dead creatures.

As you see. What happened? The bear smelled the man in his ears.

Now the friend on the tree came down and asked his friend on the ground, "Friend, what did the bear tell you into your ears?"

Why do you think the friend asks this question? Does the bear really say something in the ear of the person? So why did he ask him this question?

It means he came down the tree without any sense of shame. He came back joking without any feeling of guilt which is worse. What do you think the other friend replied?

The other friend replied, "The bear advised me not to believe a false

friend.”

The reply was very powerful.

What do you think the moral of this story is?

Student: Choose your friends wisely.

Instructor: good. We can say, ‘*A friend in need is a friend indeed;*’ this means a person who helps at a difficult time is a truly reliable person.

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Let us look at the vocabulary in the text:

- **Approaching:** Coming near- getting closer
- **Common sense:** logic
- **Creatures:** living things
- **Lay (verb):** past of *lie*. يستلقي على الأرض

In any text, we have words that connect sentences to each other. What are the connectors here? **So – Suddenly – But – now – because.**

What is the role of the connectors in the text? If we just have full stops, we cannot understand the text as we should because there are many full stops.

Can you summarize the story?

Student:

Two friends in a forest promised each other to stay together, but one of them betrayed the other.

Instructor: What about the bear? You didn’t mention anything about the main plot which is the appearance of the bear.

-If you want to **summarize** the first paragraph in 6 words, how can you do it?

We can say (*Two friends promised to be together in the forest*)

- What about the second paragraph?

(*A bear appeared. One of them climbed a tree and the other lay on the ground*)

- The third paragraph?

(*The bear left and the friend said that the bear advised him not to believe a false friend.*)

These are the main things about the story. You pick the main ideas and put them together to summarize.



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Thank You