

## Reading Skills & Subskills for ESL Learners (A1–C1) + How to Teach Them

Reading is more than just recognizing words—it involves different **skills** and **subskills** that help learners process and understand texts effectively. Below is a breakdown of the key reading skills from A1 to C1, along with **engaging teaching techniques** for each level.

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### ◆ 1. Reading Skills & Subskills Overview

#### 🔑 Key Reading Skills:

1. **Skimming** – Quickly reading to get the general idea.
  2. **Scanning** – Looking for specific details.
  3. **Reading for gist (Global Understanding)** – Understanding the main idea.
  4. **Reading for detail** – Understanding specific information.
  5. **Inference & Deduction** – Understanding implied meaning.
  6. **Predicting** – Guessing content from titles, pictures, or context.
  7. **Recognizing Discourse Markers** – Identifying connectors (e.g., however, therefore, in contrast).
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### ◆ 2. How to Teach Reading Skills at Each Level

#### ● A1 (Beginner) – Basic Understanding

✦ **Focus:** Recognizing words, simple comprehension, and basic skimming/scanning.

#### 🎯 Skills & Techniques:

##### ◆ Skimming (Main Idea Recognition)

- **Activity: Picture Prediction** → Show images related to the text and have students guess the topic before reading.

##### ◆ Scanning (Finding Specific Words)

- **Activity: Word Hunt** → Provide a short paragraph with a list of words for students to find as fast as possible.

##### ◆ Reading for Gist (Global Understanding)

- **Activity: True/False Statements** → Give simple yes/no or true/false questions based on the text.

- ◆ **Reading for Detail (Understanding Sentences)**

- **Activity: Fill-in-the-Blanks** → Use gap-fill exercises to reinforce vocabulary.

- ◆ **Predicting (Guessing Meaning from Context)**

- **Activity: Matching Words with Pictures** → Before reading, give key vocabulary with images.
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- **A2 (Elementary) – Expanding Comprehension**

✦ **Focus:** Identifying the main idea, finding key details, and understanding word meaning from context.

🎯 **Skills & Techniques:**

- ◆ **Skimming (Reading Quickly for the General Idea)**

- **Activity: Title & First Sentence Guessing** → Students read only the title and first sentence, then predict what the text is about.

- ◆ **Scanning (Finding Specific Information)**

- **Activity: Find the Numbers** → Provide a text with dates, numbers, or names for students to locate quickly.

- ◆ **Inference & Deduction (Understanding Implied Meaning)**

- **Activity: Who Said It?** → If the text has dialogue, students match statements with the correct character.

- ◆ **Recognizing Discourse Markers (Logical Connectors)**

- **Activity: Sentence Completion** → Give students sentences with missing transition words (e.g., because, but, so).
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- **B1 (Intermediate) – Independent Reading**

✦ **Focus:** Distinguishing opinions from facts, summarizing, and recognizing organization in texts.

🎯 **Skills & Techniques:**

- ◆ **Skimming & Scanning (Speed Reading Practice)**

- **Activity: One-Minute Reading Challenge** → Students skim a short text and summarize it in 1-2 sentences.

- ◆ **Inference (Understanding Indirect Meaning)**

- **Activity: Character Feelings** → Students read a passage and infer how a character feels.

- ◆ **Reading for Detail (Supporting Evidence in Texts)**

- **Activity: Find the Synonym** → Students locate words in the text that match given synonyms.

- ◆ **Recognizing Text Structure (Headings & Paragraph Order)**

- **Activity: Jumbled Paragraphs** → Cut up a short text, and students must arrange the paragraphs in the correct order.

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## ● **B2 (Upper-Intermediate) – Critical Thinking & Analysis**

✦ **Focus:** Evaluating arguments, understanding tone, and analysing text structure.

🎯 **Skills & Techniques:**

- ◆ **Identifying Writer's Tone & Purpose**

- **Activity: Text Tone Sorting** → Give students sentences from different texts (formal, persuasive, humorous) and have them classify the tone.

- ◆ **Distinguishing Fact from Opinion**

- **Activity: Fact or Opinion Debate** → Students highlight factual statements in one colour and opinions in another.

- ◆ **Inference & Reading Between the Lines**

- **Activity: What's the Hidden Meaning?** → Provide ambiguous sentences and ask students to explain what they suggest.

- ◆ **Recognizing Discourse Markers (Logical Connectors in Arguments)**

- **Activity: Gap-Fill with Transition Words** → Provide a text with missing linking words for students to complete.

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## ● **C1 (Advanced) – Critical Reading & Interpretation**

✦ **Focus:** Evaluating arguments, identifying bias, and making connections between ideas.

🎯 **Skills & Techniques:**

- ◆ **Analysing Arguments & Evaluating Evidence**

- **Activity: Persuasive Article Analysis** → Students read an opinion article and highlight claims, supporting arguments, and counterarguments.

- ◆ **Identifying Bias & Subjectivity**

- **Activity: Compare Two Articles** → Give two texts with different perspectives on the same topic. Students analyze language and tone.

- ◆ **Recognizing Author's Purpose & Style**

- **Activity: Whose Perspective?** → Students rewrite a paragraph from another character's or author's perspective.

- ◆ **Synthesizing Information (Connecting Ideas Across Texts)**

- **Activity: Discussion Circles** → Students compare ideas from multiple texts and relate them to current events.

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- ◆ **3. Final Tips for Teaching Reading Skills at Any Level**

- ✓ **Use Authentic Texts** – Articles, blogs, short stories, and real-world materials.
  - ✓ **Make Reading Interactive** – Use discussions, role-plays, and debates.
  - ✓ **Encourage Active Engagement** – Have students highlight, annotate, and take notes.
  - ✓ **Mix Reading with Other Skills** – Follow up with speaking or writing tasks.
  - ✓ **Focus on Student-Centered Learning** – Let students explore texts at their own pace.
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