# Tips on how to Improve Reading Comprehension in Children

Ever been asked how a computer works? Well, it’s quite obvious, isn’t it? ‘*just feeding in commands and the latter giving us outputs depending on the command instructed’*, right? But we always miss this, the computer processes the instructions fed, then logically evaluates their viability before providing an output.

[Reading Comprehension](#RC) cannot be put any simpler than as illustrated in the above: ‘***Ability of a person to interact with words from a text and being able to make an overall meaning or idea from the text****.’* Simply put as, understanding the thoughts conveyed by a writer in their published content.

In comprehensive reading, we get to know how words have been structured in a sentence to convey a definite thought. Comprehensive reading under intense pressure and in a distractive environ, or when reading while stressed-up is never accomplished at all as these aspects do not set an ideal reading [comprehension atmosphere](#SA). Under these cases, the brain tends to be very busy or distracted enough to comprehend anything at all as you read. But we are only human after all, and we are prone to such destructions.

## [**Why is Comprehension a major key in Learning?**](#why)

“*You never stop learning in life*”. Well, we all agree to the ideological truth of the statement, right? This is so, since, we not only just speak the words constructing that sentence, but we also extend to make a meaningful and viable sense after processing them. “Words have power”, what happens when we cannot understand the meaning behind written words?

Children manifest this effect well, especially those who are still in their early childhood education. Its only after having understood written literature, that we can say, we have decoded the words’ message. After decoding words from a text, we become informed. When children struggle to comprehend what they read or what their teacher expects them to know, their academic performance, self-esteem and even their social lives are drastically affected. Some rare cases will eventually lead to Dyslexia.

Reading ought to be enlightening, enjoyable and fun, especially when it involves our kids. Effective reading helps equip children with life skills they will need in future. That is only possible if they are able to comprehend and understand what they read. Thus, comprehension is a necessity for gaining knowledge in every learning aspect throughout life and should be incorporated early enough in life.

[**Top 10 Tips to improve your child’s reading comprehension skill?**](#tips)

Does your child or student struggle with comprehension of words and texts while reading? If so, then be glad to apply our [**Top 10 Tips to improve your child’s reading comprehension skills?**](#tips) Tackling this obstacle will greatly improve and enhance your child’s efficiency in comprehension and reading abilities.

So how do I exactly improve my child’s comprehension skills?

Impeccable readers with admirable comprehension skills always consider preparing to read by having a [comprehension-friendly atmosphere](#SA) before reading. As a parent or caregiver, you can ask the questions below to prepare your child’s comprehension skills?

* What is he/she able to tell from the title used?
* Is he/she able to foretell or predict the plot of a context from a title?
* Can they make connections of what they already to what they are about read?
* Does he/she know any related or other familiar books like the one going to read?
* How well is she/he in interpreting chronological events within any text?
* What is he/she able to tell from the characters used in a story?

Here are our top ten tips that teachers, parents, tutors and parental guardians can and would use to improve their children’s reading comprehension skills. Although there is no any chronological order of using them, we highly advise and recommend that, until you are certain of your child having mastered at least one skill, you should not proceed to the others.

1. **Setting the Mood*.***

Getting the right attitude in doing anything is essential in solving it with least efforts at any cost. This involves you and your child preparing to read before the actual reading starts. By setting the mood we nurture our mental and emotional states in eliminating any possible distraction that could hinder effective learning to take place.

Make light-hearted jokes and engage in fun and interesting conversations. (Create a tranquil environment basically). Loud music, noise from television programs and radio, high pitched irrelevant conversations, commotions and any other factors should be eliminated.

1. [**Finding the right book**](#c)

Getting the right book to read is very important in improving reading comprehension skills in children.

When you allow your child to pick up what they want to read, they will certainly pick a book based on their interests. When you do something you love, you strive to do it well. As seen from a survey conducted, ***"73% of people who struggle with reading say they would read even more if they were allowed to pick what they wanted to read."***

As a caregiver, consider this when picking the right content. You can either;

* Both you and your child can participate in choosing a book together or,
* You allow your child to pick a book that they are interested to read by themselves.
1. **Reading Aloud**

Reading out loud is an important skill in improving comprehension skills. You get a clear understanding of the text when you are able to see the words while hearing them at the same. When your child hears what he/she is reading, their reading pace slows down, but the translation of words gets easier in the brain. With ease in processing information, comprehension is improved. This nurtures fluency in understanding the grammar and diction of the literature.

1. **Read Together**

As you engage in reading with your child, it boosts their confidence in reading. Reading together allows one of you to listen while the other person reads through since it is a turn-taking activity. When reading with your child, it becomes easy for them to follow through a context while they await their turn to read. Reading together with your child helps you as the parent, or teacher of the child to identify where weaknesses are, and offer quick-instant help for correction as they go on.

When reading together, a quick recap can be done on areas not clearly understood and help draw vivid connections from other parts of the text altogether. This establishes new concepts of understanding since you learn from each other.

1. **Write down new words**

As you continue reading through any literature work, it is obvious to encounter new vocabularies. For this reason, parents should teach their children at an early age to always write down new vocabularies encountered while reading. You can also go ahead and get them a personal dictionary to assist them in looking up new words and get their meaning correctly. This will help them understand their usage in a text and thus improving their ability to make sense out of what they are reading, you can even ask them to use those new words in constructing their own meaningful sentences for understanding.

1. **Make short notes**

Making short notes based on any literature read enables a person to see what they have understood and get to have a clear concise picture of the author’s style in plot development. When your child clearly masters the flow of a plot while still reading, they now can even foretell what will happen next in the context based on previous events in the book.

This clearly shows the ability and level of comprehension your child possesses. Other people write reviews at the end to generalize what they have learnt and also to share their own personal opinion concerning the content.

1. **Use a ruler/index finger/pencil to follow through**

Some literature works have long sentences and paragraphs that it becomes hard to distinguish between a new and an already read sentence in that text. Distinguishing between consecutive lines in such a book is somewhat confusing.

 Following along as you read with an object, in this case, can help maintain the reading pace with no confusions and get what the words convey. This method of learning can be used and practiced even by Dyslexia suffering people.

1. **Look for alternative forms of reading**

If after attempting to practice all these tips, and your child or student is still unable to master reading comprehension skills on written works of literature, you can opt for alternative methods of learning which they can try. There’s always another way out, try finding out which other formats can be used to convey the intended message to learners. It could be the use of audiobooks of that same published content or videos to teach the same things but with less literature in them.

1. **Attempting questions from the context.**

Asking your child or student a question based on the content they have just finished reading, refreshes their minds and they try to remember exactly what they understood. This is a good strategy in identifying areas that they did not comprehend at all or might have just forgotten. Also in some cases, questions derived from an excerpt can help your child understand the author’s intention in writing the material.

1. **Re-reading the content.**

After finding out that there are some points, details or occurrences in written literature that your child or students cannot remember or is uncertain of and cannot explain, you can advise and help them always by going back and re-reading together. This helps improve their fluency and reading comprehension on the important points and details which they missed on their first read and relate them with the overall knowledge they have concerning the text. Most people use this method to improve and broaden their reading comprehension in documents, contracts etc.

***Hint; - You make things simpler when practicing these skills with any child or student, through creating an ample environment, establishing good reading skills and by setting an ideal reading mood. Often, it becomes a big deal when you try to force the skills or just have your way during training; this makes the child more reluctant and can eventually lead to a complete loss of reading interest. Make reading to be fun and enjoyable instead.***