How to read effectively

Strategies to help you read effectively and recall information
Why the need to read effectively?

To understand and remember complex information better.
Recognise the writer’s purpose

**Persuade:** Usually for or against something (eg. advertisements)

**Inform:** Contain facts (eg. a report)

**Entertain:** Usually in the form of a story

Other reasons?
Recognise the writer’s purpose

What is the writer’s purpose?

➔ Pediatricians specialize in the health of children. Cardiologists are heart specialists. Anesthesiologists are doctors who administer anesthesia during surgery. Choose the correct answer below.

Persuade? Inform? Entertain?
Writer’s tone

- In general, the tone in a piece of writing shows the attitude of the writer toward the subject.
- Tone can be detected through the writer’s choice of words.
- For examples see: http://literarydevices.net/tone/
Exercise 1

Should we pay for plastic bags?

Reading effectively : SQ3R method

**Problem:** You have just read an article and forgot what it was all about.

**Solution:** SQ3R helps you understand and retain information better.

**SQ3R stands for:** Survey, Question, Read, Recall, Review
SQ3R

Q = QUESTIONS

What is a carbon monoxide?
SQ3R: Survey

- Scan to get an overview of what the text is about
- Use these as clues to see whether this information is what you are looking for. If not, skip it and look for another article.
SQ3R: Question

➔ What is the article about?
➔ What are you most interested in learning?
➔ How will this answer the assignment topic?
➔ What do you want to achieve from this reading?

Repeat the heading (in the article) as a question if that helps.
SQ3R: Read

- Look for answers to questions you have formulated.
- For complex information, you may have to read the article twice.
- Make note of any topics/words that you do not understand, you can explore other articles for these topics/words. (Do not let them distract your flow of reading.)
- If this is not a recommended reading, see if you can find another article that is at a level you can understand.
SQ3R: Recall

- In each section, turn subheadings into questions you must answer before you move on. Write them down.
- Can you recall/remember what you have just read?
- Re-read the section if you have to.
SQ3R: Review

- Re-read your notes.
- Explain what you have learnt with others. This helps you retain information better.
- Try and do this regularly. You could even create a blog, teach someone else about the topic, etc.
- How does this relate to other texts?
Reading difficult material

- Break reading up into chunks
- Make connections to what you know
- Do not let the difficult parts disrupt your flow of reading.
  Are there extra resources you can refer to to aid understanding?

Don’t give up and don’t panic!
Exercise 2

*Refer to Exercise 2
References