

LESSON 1

Strategies for Reading in English

In high school, university, and even in the business world, you will be required to read many challenging texts. Plus, reading in a language other than your native language can be especially challenging! Luckily, there are strategies available to make the reading process easier. One popular strategy is:

Preview, Pre-read, Predict, and Annotate (PPPA)

Preview, **P**re-read, **P**redict, and **A**nnotate (**PPPA**) is a reading strategy that helps readers:

- Become familiar with the ideas and organization of a reading or text before reading
- Establish a purpose for reading
- Remember more by creating repetition of the reading's main ideas
- Get interested in the reading
- Learn how to read critically
- Determine how difficult a reading is and how long it will take to read

Steps For Using PPPA:

Note: The end of this lesson contains a link to an online presentation showing an example of PPPA!

1. **PREVIEW** the reading ahead of time.

Specifically, look at these things:



- title of the text or section
- subtitles (if there are any)
- biographical information such as the author, publication date, name of publisher, and so on
- graphics, photos, charts, or other visuals
- # of sections or pages in the entire reading
- words in **bold**, *italics*, or LARGE LETTERS

2. **PRE-READ** the reading by following these steps:

- Highlight and read the first paragraph.
- Highlight and read the first line or two in every paragraph.
- Highlight and read the last paragraph.



If anything in the reading is confusing, repeat step 2.

3. PREDICT what you think the reading will be about:



- Based on your Previewing and Pre-reading, make a **prediction** (a guess) at the author's main point or main idea. Don't just predict what the author's topic will be, but try to guess what the author will say about the topic (his or her opinion), how he or she might say it, and why it is important.

If you have no prediction about the main idea, repeat steps 1 & 2.

4. ANNOTATE the article by taking notes while you do a serious reading of the entire text.

This will help you notice if your prediction was correct and to find the main idea of the text.

You annotate a text by:

- Writing notes in the margins (on the left & right sides of the paper) while you read.
- Underlining or **highlighting** important words, as well as words and ideas you see repeated.

