

RW – Extensive Reading

What is extensive reading?

“Extensive reading is an approach to language teaching in which learners read a lot of easy material in the new language. They choose their own reading material and read it independently of the teacher. They read for general, overall meaning, and they read for information and enjoyment. They are encouraged to stop reading if the material is not interesting or if it is too difficult” (Day, 2004).

Why are you being asked to do extensive reading?

While most of you have had a lot of practice with intensive reading, very few of you have had a chance to do any extensive reading. When a language learner includes extensive reading as part of their study of the language, research has found that learners make substantial progress in not only their reading ability, but also in their writing ability, vocabulary knowledge, grammatical accuracy, and even in their listening and speaking ability. In addition, learners who do extensive reading have been found to develop increased motivation and positive attitudes to study the new language.

Important points

- Choose a book that is easy enough (you should know 95% of the vocabulary)
- Stop if you do not enjoy the book
- Stop if the book is too difficult
- Read for overall meaning
- Do not look up words in the dictionary – try to guess the meaning
- After finishing a book, you must write complete a book report
- Be prepared to talk about the book when you have an interview with me

Reading level test

Many of our books available are from the Oxford Bookworms series (levels 3-6). If you are interested in reading books from this series, you can do a multiple choice level test at:

<https://elt.oup.com/student/readersleveltest>

You can also use other books in our library. You should only choose a book if you know 95% of the words on a page.

Word counts

Word counts can be found on the back of the Oxford Bookworms (level 3-6) books or on amazon.com or at: <http://www.arbookfind.com/usertype.aspx>

Book Borrowing Information

Books are available from the Department of English Education office/library in room 406 of the main building (this is the tallest building on campus). The library is open 9am-5pm with a lunch break from 12pm-1pm. You must sign your name to take out a book. Books must be returned or re-signed at the office every two weeks.