Unit 24 – Lesson 36

Reading for Comprehension - Intensive Reading

Reading is the most important skill for the learners of English. It is receptive skill, but requires active participation from the learner. It gives a very effective exposure to the language.

Reading is done for various purposes. We read a book for pleasure; we read newspapers and some magazines to know what is happening in the world we live in. When we read a newspaper, we read through fast to get the news; we read a novel or a story book for pleasure. The story book and the newspaper do not require much comprehension; yet when you are reading prescribed textbook in mechanical engineering or management circle, you can not rush through. You may have to retain in your memory the grasped information over a period of time. Your academic reading requires a high degree of comprehension for which you have to read with utmost concentration. **This type of reading, which really consumes time and good comprehension skills is called intensive reading.** Such reading helps you to understand the text giving important focus on vocabulary, sentence structure and coherence.

Intensive reading requires text analysis for critical and evaluative understanding of a text. Text analysis is the process of identifying relationship among different units within the text in order to find the difference between

- relevant and irrelevant information
- Facts and opinions
- Explicit and implicit information
- Draw inferences and conclusions
- Understand major and minor details
- Use of language – style
- Writer’s attitude
- Author’s intention
- To read ‘in between’ lines

Thus intensive reading skills requires thorough reading practice. The reader should develop critical reading and inferential skills and the ability to receive and interpret graphic information.

Assignment

1. Read English newspaper every day and make a diary of important events.
2. Read novels – social, religious, etc. Try to read at least one book every month.
3. Make a written review of any article or book you need.
4. Learn to write a critical analysis of certain serious articles / books