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READING AS A VITAL PART OF LEARNING ENGLISH

Reading is one of the most important means of obtaining information, thus the ability to read in English is an essential aspect of professional skill in our times.

From the very beginning, the process of learning to read in English is the most highly developed type of students' speech activity. It means that reading is the main way of satisfying the cognitive needs and the main source of getting necessary information for future specialists – from books, the press, scientific literature and the global Internet. In addition, reading is the most affordable method of learning English in the absence of a foreign-language environment.

Reading has different levels ranging from the ability to understand the indicative content of the text to its creative assimilation, when the reader accepts, compares and analyzes information or simply can learn something new. To teach reading in English means not only to create the preconditions for expanding the level of general education, but also to give the opportunity to get new information in a timely manner to every specialist. So, it is a main condition of successful professional activity in modern science and technology.

In order to determine a rational sequence of learning to read in English it is necessary to consider the difficulties that can arise while doing this activity. These kinds of difficulties can be divided into three categories: 1) the difficulties related to the discrepancy between sound and writing systems of the English language; 2) the difficulties related to the accent in different types of words while reading aloud; 3) difficulties that occur during the putting logical stress in sentences.

The reason for these difficulties is that rules of word stress and word order in the sentence in English language differ from native one. To solve these kind of problems there are variety of techniques and methods. After analyzing various Internet resources and scientific literature, it has been found that, there are three the most effective methods (Table. 1).

Table 1. **Methods of learning to read in English**

№	Methods (the author)	Characteristics
1.	Skliarenko N.K.	*Main steps:* 1) learning the alphabet; 2) learning how to write letters; 3) learning letter groups (letter combinations); 4) learning basic reading rules; 5) develop correct pronunciation (read aloud); 6) develop an ability to understand meaning of the words;
2	Michael West	1) the frequent repetition of you have learnt; 2) learning grammar rules; 3) "Read and Look Up" – you should read a phrase or sentence silently as many times as necessary, then looks up (away from the text) and then repeat them in aloud.
3	Ilya Frank	*Read certain type of books:* 1) read text with the prompts; 2) to look for a translation of unknown words in the adapted excerpt; 3) read the original (unadapted) text; 4) move on to the next adapted excerpt.

After analyzing the information given in the table, it can be defined that these methods are more general. Sklyarenko's method can be described as the alphabetic method

and the phonic method because it depends on understanding of the alphabetic principles and learning series of basic phonic rules. These are the foundation for success in reading. After learning these rules, you can move to the next level of learning – the look and say method. It means that you should read by memorizing and recognizing whole words, rather than by associating letters with sounds. This method is very similar to "Read and Look Up" suggested by Michael West. However, this theory pays much attention to the so-called "reading for understanding", when the reader is only interested in the main idea of the text, but not in the meaning of each word. In this context, there is the main drawback of this method – it can not be used when you read specific professional texts. The method of Ilya Frank is very similar to the sentence method and the whole language method. First of all you pay attention to phrases and sentences and later you can analyze them due to their verbal and alphabetic components. By using this method you learn and memorize new words and phrases by encountering them in meaningful contexts rather than by phonics exercises.

In conclusion, reading is really an essential part of learning English. Thus, we suggest combining the components of the three methods, which were mentioned previously, because this sequence of learning to read, in our estimation, is the most effective.