

Unit 4: Reading

1.1 Reading Comprehension

- Learning to read is a complex skill that demands a lot from the students

WHAT IS COMPREHENSION READING?

Understanding or grasping the meaning of something.

- The answer to a comprehension question usually is something you can point to in the paragraph or passage.

Things to do while reading a comprehension passage

- ✓ Go through the passage to find out what the passage is about.
- ✓ Give a detailed reading
- ✓ Understand the questions
- ✓ Finally, the questions should be answered suitably

Key strategies to answer comprehension passages

- Read the questions** - Before reading the passage, go through the questions. It will give some idea about the passage.

- ❑ **Unpack the questions** – Read the questions couple of times, so that you know what you need to answer.

- ❑ **Understand the meaning or the central idea of the whole passage** – It will help you to find the answer properly

1.2 Reading Longer Text and Magazines

- It is an important part of studying English.
- It helps to improve your vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation.

Tips for effective reading

- Read aloud
- Choose an interesting text
- Understand what is happening
- Read the passage twice
- Jot down important points
- Write down the new vocabulary

Exercise

Conflict had existed between Spain and England since the 1570s. England wanted a share of the wealth that Spain had been taking from the lands it had claimed in the Americas. Elizabeth I, Queen of England, encouraged her staunch admiral of the navy, Sir Francis Drake, to raid Spanish ships and towns. Though these raids were on a small scale, Drake achieved dramatic success, adding gold and silver to England's treasury and diminishing Spain's omnipotence. Religious differences also caused conflict between the two countries. Whereas Spain was Roman Catholic, most of England had become Protestant. King Philip II of Spain wanted to claim the throne and make England a Catholic country again. To satisfy his ambition and also to retaliate against England's theft of his gold and silver, King Philip began to build his fleet of warships, the Armada, in January 1586. Philip intended his fleet to be indestructible. In addition to building new war-ships, he marshalled one hundred and thirty sailing vessels of all types and recruited more than nineteen thousand robust soldiers and eight thousand sailors. Although some of his ships lacked guns and others lacked ammunition, Philip was convinced that his Armada could withstand any battle with England. The martial Armada set sail from Lisbon, Portugal, on May 9, 1588, but bad weather forced it back to port. The voyage resumed on July 22 after the weather became more stable. The Spanish fleet met the smaller, faster, and more manoeuvrable English ships in battle off the coast of Plymouth, England, first on July 31 and again on August 2. The two battles left Spain vulnerable, having lost several ships and with its ammunition depleted. On August 7, while the Armada lay at anchor on the French side of the Strait of Dover, England sent eight burning ships into the midst of the Spanish fleet to set it on fire. Blocked on one side, the Spanish ships could only drift away, their crews in panic and disorder. Before the Armada could regroup, the English attacked again on August 8. Although the Spaniards made a valiant effort to fight back,

the fleet suffered extensive damage. During the eight hours of battle, the Armada drifted perilously close to the rocky coastline. At the moment when it seemed that the Spanish ships would be driven onto the English shore, the wind shifted, and the Armada drifted out into the North Sea. The Spaniards recognized the superiority of the English fleet and returned home, defeated.

Questions:

1. Sir Francis Drake added wealth to the treasury and diminished Spain's _____.
 - A. unlimited power
 - B. unrestricted growth
 - C. territory
 - D. treaties
 - E. answer not available in article

2. Philip recruited many ____ soldiers and sailors.
 - A. warlike
 - B. strong
 - C. accomplished
 - D. timid
 - E. non experienced

3. The ____ Armada set sail on May 9, 1588.
 - A. complete
 - B. warlike
 - C. independent
 - D. isolated
 - E. answer not available

4. The two battles left the Spanish fleet _____.
 - A. open to change
 - B. triumphant
 - C. open to attack
 - D. defeated
 - E. discouraged

5. The Armada was ____ on one side.
 - A. closed off
 - B. damaged
 - C. alone
 - D. circled
 - E. answer not available in this article

Answers:

1. A

2. B

3. B

4. C

5. A

