

## READING

### READING SHORT TEXT AND LONGER PASSAGES

Reading comprehension is the ability to read text, process it, and understand its meaning.

An individual's ability to comprehend text influenced by their traits and skill

Proficient reading depends on the ability to recognize words quickly and effortlessly.

#### **Ability of an individual to comprehend text depends upon**

- Prior knowledge about the subject
- Well-developed language
- The ability to make inferences

#### **Reading modes**

There are different reading modes and each of them has its own peculiarities. Those are scanning, skimming eyes, extensive reading and intensive reading. Also, reading modes are classified by the degree of involvement — active and passive.

#### **Scanning**

This reading mode is aimed only at finding the necessary information in the text. It does not mean a complete immersion in the text and a deep comprehension of the facts, analysis of grammatical constructions.

This type of reading is also called «diagonal reading».

#### **Skimming**

This reading mode is used to get to know and understand if this information is useful to you. In this case, the text is also viewed quickly.

#### **Extensive reading**

This type of reading is to get acquainted with new information.

Also it implies the mastering of the general image and the receipt of new, unfamiliar information. It will be necessary to form and express your opinion about what you read or answer the questions.

### **Intensive reading**

This type of reading is used to intensively parse the proposed short, teaching text. With this type of reading, grammatical constructions, unfamiliar words and phrases are intensively examined.

### **Example**

From 1996 to 1998, Peter Hessler was a Peace Corps volunteer. He was an English teacher in China. He worked in a region near the Yangtze River. It is now part of the Three Gorges Dam\*. Last year, he returned to the region on a visit.

I am in the White Crane Ridge Underwater Museum. It's a very strange museum – it's under 40 metres of water on the side of the Three Gorges Dam. The director of the museum is Huang Dejian. I knew him before the museum existed and before the Three Gorges Dam existed. I taught English at the local college in the town of Fuling. Fuling was quiet and isolated. There wasn't a motorway or a railway line. The river ferry to the city (Chongqing) took seven hours. Foreigners were very rare. When I ate my lunch in the town centre, a crowd often came to watch me. The city had one escalator and one nightclub. There weren't any traffic lights. I didn't know anybody with a car.

From 1996 to 1998, I worked at Fuling Teachers College. My students came from rural homes but they wanted to be English teachers. I learned many things from my students. They helped me to understand people's experiences of moving from the countryside to big cities. My students didn't have much money, but they were optimistic and they had opportunities.

During my visit, I meet about 15 of my old students. They tell me about their old classmates. Many of them have left Fuling. One is a Communist Party official in Tibet, another started a taxi company and became a millionaire. One woman is a radio presenter. Another now teaches English to the children of rich factory owners. My old students are

interested in analysing their society. One student, Emily, tells me about her rich cousin. She says that he is richer now but he isn't happier.

My last meeting on this visit is with Huang Zongming and his brother Zongguo. When I lived here, they were fishermen. When the first stage of the dam was completed, they left their home. I was sure that their lives were changed forever. But now I discover that everything is almost the same for them. They are still fishermen. The fishing on the river is still good. The dam has not changed some things in Fuling.

1. The town of Fuling -----
  - a) is near the Three Gorges Dam.
  - b) is under the water now.
  - c) is the same as in the 1990s. (a)
2. Peter Hessler describes .-----
  - a) his job at the Fuling Teachers College.
  - b) Fuling and its people.
  - c) the Three Gorges Dam project. (b)
3. During his visit, Peter -----
  - a) eats in the town centre.
  - b) teaches some English classes.
  - c) meets old friends. ( c )
4. Why is the museum strange?
  - a) It didn't exist in 1998.
  - b) It's only 40 metres long.
  - c) It's under water. (c)
5. Huang Dejian -----
  - a) knew Peter Hessler when he worked in Fuling.
  - b) was one of Peter Hessler's students.
  - c) was Peter Hessler's teacher. (a)

6. In the past, Fuling-----

- a) was a busy town.
- b) was difficult to get to.
- c) had a lot of foreign visitors. (b)

7. Peter's students -----

- a) were experienced teachers.
- b) came from the city.
- c) taught him about a lot of things. (c)

8. After Peter's students left college -----

- a) they also left Fuling.
- b) they all worked as teachers.
- c) they did many different things. (c)

9. What does one of Peter's students say about her cousin?

- a) He has more money than before.
- b) He is happier than she is.
- c) His life is better than her life. (a)

10. What has changed in the lives of the two fishermen?

- a) everything
- b) not very much
- c) their jobs (b)



