

READING FOR ACADEMIC PURPOSES SERIES

Reading And Reasoning

A Problem Solving Approach

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PREFACE

READING AND REASONING deals with one particular aspect of the teaching of English as a foreign language: English for Academic Purposes (EAP).

The aim of this material is to help students of English as a Second Language develop their reading skills so that they can become good readers in English. Most of these skills are already used in their first language such as skimming, scanning, predicting or reacting in a critical way.

The material has been designed mainly for National University students in order to prepare them to read texts in English; however, it might also be used by other learners who share the same needs and interests. It can be used by teachers as course material, supplementary material, or by students as self-access material.

This manual mainly focuses on a set of tasks that students develop by applying their own learning strategies. There is a section oriented towards **Problem Solving** that consists of creating a problem, a case study or a hypothetical situation based on ideas taken from the text of each unit. This approach allows students to create opportunities to use their own knowledge and experience of the world, to explore their potential, to evaluate and raise issues in such a way that finally students are able to propose solutions to it.

We advise you to use the units sequentially since the tasks and the problem solving activities are graded according to their level of difficulty. The tasks are more demanding as students get further into the subsequent units.

Each unit consists of three main parts:

- Reflecting upon the Text
- Face to Face with the Text
- Judging and Proposing Solutions

I. REFLECTING UPON THE TEXT



The exercises in this section were designed to lead students to use their background knowledge to anticipate the theme of the reading through different strategies, i.e. considering and discussing problems, previewing, dealing with unfamiliar words, recalling experiences, cooperating, and forming images by looking at the title, subtitles, pictures, and captions, and by using any other visual features in the text.

This part presents different tasks to help students to approach the text and challenge their ideas with its content.

II. FACE TO FACE WITH THE TEXT



Various tasks were designed to develop students' abilities to exploit the content of a text by using many reading strategies such as skimming, scanning, summarising, cooperating, transferring information and inferring.

These strategies help students to complete tasks such as identifying the main idea, obtaining specific information, writing a summary, sharing opinions, placing words in a meaningful language context and guessing meaning.



III. JUDGING AND PROPOSING SOLUTIONS

The main purpose of this section is to give students specific tasks presenting them with problems or case studies based either on the content of the text itself or a hypothetical situation related to its content that will help learners to develop their creativity.

These tasks lead students to solve problems, to make decisions, to evaluate events, to give reasons, to make hypotheses, to exchange information and opinions, to express cause and effect relationships and to identify errors.

The authors of this text hope that teachers and students will benefit from the suggestions presented through the tasks and enjoy them.

THE AUTHORS