





Reading strategies

Getting Started in TTO



How often have you heard your teachers or your parents tell you that you should read more? "Reading is good for you! It helps improve (*verbeteren*) your vocabulary!" Does this sound familiar?

I know what you're thinking: reading takes time and you'd rather (*liever*) be doing other things that can be done quickly and that are more active.

Well, reading can be active! Like reading jokes, comments in online gaming, comics or interesting pieces of information which you can then pass on to your friends. Reading is environmentally friendly, uses little energy and you can travel round the world without getting out of your chair!



Here are some jokes. Match the first lines of the jokes with their 'punch lines' (*clou*).





In TTO you will have to read many different texts, for instance for subjects like biology, geography and history. At primary school, you already learned some reading strategies (*leesstrategieën*): steps you can take in order to read and understand a text. You can use these reading strategies in TTO as well.

In this unit we're going to remind you of what these steps are and give you some practice exercises. The steps are shown on the card your teacher will give you (see below). This card is useful when you start reading a text, especially in the beginning.







Before reading – Think about how and why you will read the text

Do you ever read a magazine? Do you read all the articles in detail? Or do you read some parts quickly and skip the rest? You probably read quickly and skip what you don't want to read.

There are many ways to read a text: reading a magazine is very different to reading texts in your schoolbooks.

Before you start reading, it is important to think how and why you are reading the text:

- a *Skimming and scanning*: you do this if you want to search for specific information in the text. For instance, if you want to look for a person's name or find an important date.
- **In less detail**, so that you know the main points (*belangrijkste punten*). You look at the pictures and the headlines and you read small bits of text to get a general idea of what it is about.
- **c** In detail or study, so that you learn as much as possible about the subject.

Before you start reading, decide for what purpose (met welk doel) you are going to read the text.

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Decide how you would read the texts below. Choose the correct answer.

- How do you read a schoolbook?
 - A Skimming and scanning
 - B In less detail
 - C In detail or study
 - B How do you use Instagram?
 - A Skimming and scanning
 - B In less detail
 - C In detail



- (A) Skimming and scanning
- B In less detail
- C In detail



William the Silent	
From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia	
William 1, Prince of Orange (24 April 1533 – 10 July 1564, also known as William the Silent or William the Tachtan (runnalatof from Duich: Millem de Zujger, ¹¹¹) ¹¹² or more commonly known as William of Orange (Duich: Willem van Orange), was the main leader of the Duich Revert against the Spanish	Will
Habsburgs that set off the Eighty Year's War (1560-1640) and resulted in the formal independence of the United Provinces in 1561. He was born into the House of Nassau as Court of Nassau- Diletrotys, He became Prince of Change in 1544 and is threthy the Kounder of the Change-Nassau branch and the ancestor of the monachrow the Netherlands, In the	William of Grange, Ad



How do you read a task in your workbook?

- A Skimming and scanning
- B In less detail
- C In detail

How do you read a magazine?

- A Skimming and scanning
- B In less detail
- C In detail

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If you want to read a text in *detail* or you want to *study* it carefully, don't start reading it directly. Take it step-by-step.

The first step is to read the text in less detail: look at the 'outside' of the text. This will give you a good idea of what the text is about.

- Read the title and the smaller headings. Ask yourself whether you understand these first.
- Look at the pictures and read the captions (bijschriften). What do you see?
- What are the aims (*doelen*) of the text? What does the writer want you to do or to remember?
- Look at the words in bold (*vetgedrukte woorden*). Ask yourself if you already know the meaning of these words.
- Now read the introduction: what is the connection with the subject of the text?

You don't have to write down the answers to the questions above, but you can answer them silently before you start reading.

Decide how you would read the texts below. Choose the correct answer.







a Read the title, the smaller headings, the introduction and the aims. Look at the pictures and the captions (*bijschriften*). What is this text about? This text is about volcances. Or: This text is about what happens during a volcanic eruption and its effects.

 b How do you know this?
<u>The title, the smaller headings, the pictures, the introduction and the aims</u> all are about volcanoes.



Before reading – Think about what you already know about the subject

You may not realise it yet, but you already know quite a bit about many subjects.

Before you read a text, think about what you already know about the subject of the text. Have you ever:

- read anything about it?
- heard about it?
- had anything to do with it?
- If so, what can you remember?

If you think about what you know about a subject, it makes it easier to link up the new information about it and you will be able to understand the text much better.



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Have you ever read or heard about a volcano? Have you ever seen a volcano for real?

a Write down as many words as you can think of that are linked to volcanoes. If you don't know the word in English, look it up or write it down in Dutch.

Student's own answer, for example: eruption, lava, magma, crater,

explosion, volcanic ash, magma chamber, main vent, side vent.

b Work with a classmate. Compare the words you have both written down and talk about them. Does your classmate know any English words about volcanoes that you don't? If so, add them to your own list.





Now that you have taken steps 1 to 3, you know a little more about the content (*inhoud*) of the text. You've also thought about what you already know about the subject.

If this is a text you must read *in detail,* follow the steps below:

- While reading, think about your own ideas on the subject: do these match with what you are reading?
- Are you having difficulty reading the text because of difficult words? Use the help card: *New Words Strategies.*
- If you come across some new words in bold type, see if you can understand their meaning by reading the text before and after these words.
- When you've read a paragraph, try to summarise it in your head. If this is difficult, read the same piece of text again.



After reading – Check if you have achieved your reading aims

After reading, check if you have achieved your reading aims:

- In your own words, make bullet points about what you've read.
- What are the aims for the text? Check whether you've achieved these aims.
- Is there a summary at the end of the text? Read this carefully and check whether you understand it.

If there is no summary, you can make one yourself.

While reading or after reading, complete the assignments. This will help you to remember the important points in the text and to understand it better.

