

Comprehension Worksheet 3: Gr 4-6

Check your understanding

Readers sometimes get stuck when they read, not understanding a word or losing the train of thought. The difference between a good and a poor reader is that the good reader realizes when comprehension has broken down, and knows what strategy to use to fix it. Many students do not realize that they are not understanding what they read, so teachers must help them become so engaged in the text that when they veer off course, they realize it and immediately know how to correct it.

Here is a list of actions that can help you to fix up comprehension that breaks down:

-  **Reread** – It is OK to reread text that you've already read. Maybe you misread a word or left out a word that holds the meaning to the text.
-  **Read ahead** – You might want to continue reading for a couple of sentences if you are confused. If the confusion does not clear after a couple of sentences, go back and try another strategy.
-  **Figure out the unknown words** – You may use context clues, identify roots and affixes, or use a dictionary to determine the meaning. Do not just skip the word altogether. Look it up in a dictionary or on-line.
-  **Look at sentence structure** – Sometimes an author's style of writing may contain awkward sentence structure. Try moving the words around in your head until they make better sense.
-  **Make a mental image** – Take time to make a movie in your head. As you read the descriptions of characters or settings, paint a picture. This strategy will help you visualize and comprehend better.
-  **Ask questions** – If you ask questions as you read, you will be more actively engaged with the text.
-  **Make predictions** – As you read, think about what might happen next. You will be making inferences and drawing conclusions about the characters and plot.

- ✎ **Stop to think** – Every so often as you read, you should stop and think about what you have read. If you don't remember anything you have read, why continue? Pause and summarize in your head.
- ✎ **Make connections to what you already know** – As you read you should be thinking about how the information fits with what you know about yourself, what you've read in other texts, and how things operate in the real world. This will help you remember what you read.
- ✎ **Look at the pictures, illustrations, charts, and graphs** – These are used by the author to help you understand what you are reading. Pictures and illustrations help you visualize what you are reading. Charts and graphs are used to present the information in a more visual manner. By closely examining these, you can deepen your level of understanding.
- ✎ **Read the author's note** – Sometimes the author will present background information as an author's note. By reading this section, you will be preparing your brain to take in new information and connect it to what you have already learned.

Ask for help – When you are not understanding what you are reading, and you do not know which fix-up strategy to use, ask someone. You might ask a friend or you might need help from a teacher or parent. You should not continue to read if you are not able to summarize what you have read so far. If you do, you are just wasting time “saying words” and you won't be learning or understanding anything from the text.

What will you do when you get stuck when you read?

