The goal of this study sheet

Many people overlook the meaning and importance of having strong reading comprehension skills which can lead to difficulty understanding certain pieces of texts. Reading comprehension plays a role in many aspects of our lives rather than just academically. It affects your professional life as well as personal. The goal of this study sheet is to explain the importance of reading comprehension and inform you of ways to practice getting better at it.

What does reading comprehension mean?

Reading comprehension is the process of taking in what you are reading, actively breaking the meaning down of the texts down, and blending it with knowledge you already have.

Why is it important?

Reading without comprehension can become confusing and overall, frustrating. Have you ever read something and once you get to the end, you think to yourself, what did I just read? Trying to read through a passage you don’t understand can feel exhausting because you probably don’t know what’s happening with the characters, the plot or just the overall purpose. It can begin to feel procedure like where all you are able to do is recall rather than understand the text and relate to it. Reading comprehension is an important skill to have so that you able to interpret what you read and relate to it which will ensure that you always find pleasure when reading.

What are some ways that I can improve my reading comprehension?

- Summarizing
  - After you read a paragraph of any kind of passage, take a moment to think to yourself about what you just read. Try taking it a step forward and write a sentence or two summarizing the major part of the passage. Ask yourself thought provoking questions like who was the main character? What was the setting? Main point?
• Actively Read
  o Adjust reading speed – read slowly and re-read sections often
  o Pay attention to what you are reading – identify the purpose and genre of
    what you are reading
  o Take notes as you read. Especially note thesis, main idea and concepts so
    you can understand the material or answer questions later.
  o Circle or note words or concepts you don’t understand. Then continue
    reading to see if you can gather meaning from the context
• "Chunk" or break up the reading into parts. As your read say ‘this part is giving
  evidence for a claim the writer made” or “this part summarizes the argument” or
  “this part is telling me what is coming next”. Breaking your reading up into parts
  is a read and recall method that helps make difficult material more manageable
• Prepare for vocabulary. If you are taking a placement exam and there is specific
  language for this area of study, prepare in advance. Do not attempt to just
  remember things off the top of your head. Even professionals in a particular field
  will review and prepare in advance.

In conclusion

Reading comprehension is a hard skill to have and it does take practice. Begin studying
with baby steps; try reading a little bit everyday then apply these techniques as you feel
more comfortable. It is something you will need all your life, in every part of your life so
take your time and work on it every day!