***INTENSIVE RREADING***

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***INTENSIVE RREADING***

Intensive reading involves learners reading in detail with specific learning aims and tasks. It can be compared with extensive reading, which involves learners reading texts for enjoyment and to develop general reading skills.

Example  
The learners read a short text and put events from it into chronological order.

In the classroom  
Intensive reading activities include skimming a text for specific information to answer true or false statements or filling gaps in a summary, scanning a text to match headings to paragraphs, and scanning jumbled paragraphs and then reading them carefully to put them into the correct order.

##### ***A LIMITED VIEW***

As the name suggests, intensive reading refers to reading short texts thoroughly and with clear goals, such as to answer reading comprehension questions or to identify how sentences are linked. Unlike extensive reading, the goal of intensive reading is not to read many texts for fluency, but rather to read a shorter piece of text to gain a deeper understanding of that text.

Although reading comprehension can be one goal of intensive reading, its goals may include learning subject matter, vocabulary learning and studying the authors’ intentions. In other words, the goal of intensive reading is not limited to reading comprehension.

***A HOLISTIC VIEW***

In intensive reading, learners usually read texts that are more difficult, in terms of content and language, than those used for extensive reading. To help learners make sense of texts that may present a significant challenge in terms of vocabulary, grammar and/or concepts, teachers should focus on reading skills, such as identifying main ideas and guessing the meaning of unfamiliar words from context

* **The four learning goals for intensive reading are**  
  1. Focusing on new **language** such as vocabulary and grammar  
  2. Focusing on **ideas** such as themes and topics  
  3. Learning new **skills** such as making inferences and identifying main ideas  
  4. Paying attention to **text features** such as genre structure and cohesion

On the other hand, **Intensive reading** focuses on closely following a shorter text, doing exercises with it, and learning it in detail. According to this approach, this helps language learners really understand the language’s grammar and syntax. The proponents of this method use a range of exercises to complement the reading itself. Foreign language students can, for example, read a short paragraph and then answer questions about the text, order sentences, or find specific words.

**The Advantages of Intensive reading**

Intensive reading, however, [opens the doors of full understanding of a text](https://toshuo.com/2005/what-is-intensive-reading/)**.** You can take a passage of Shakespeare when learning English or Murakami for Japanese and work out the very essence of that paragraph. You translate every word you don’t understand, think about the meaning of what was written, and really engage with the text and its author. While you’re not exposed to as much new vocabulary as with extensive reading, the intensive style helps you truly understand the language. You can take comprehension tests, deconstruct the more complicated grammar, and gain valuable skills that will help you in learning your target language. This approach is also invaluable to those who do not enjoy reading so much as to take up extensive reading. Instead of reading a lot superficially, you can deeply engage with a short text and walk away with a sense of great achievement.

Moreover, the benefits of intensive reading include enhancing reading comprehension, helping students by understanding sentence structure and developing critical thinking as students have to answer all required questions after reading.

**Examples**

Examples of intensive reading material are reports, contracts, news articles, blog posts and short pieces of text such as short stories.