

In order to comprehend prose, the comprehender must obviously have knowledge of language. Linguistics have segregated this knowledge into different levels.

First:

There is a phonemic level visual or acoustic input is recorded into basic speech sounds called phonemes.

Second:

There is a lexical levels, which roughly corresponds to words.

Third:

There is syntactic level, which includes a set of rules that specify how categories

of word, are to be grouped or ordered.

Fourth:

There is a semantic level, which specified how the meanings of sentences are constructed. The meaning of a sentence is not simply the summation of the lexical meanings of the words in the sentences.

Fifth is a pragmatic level, which corresponds to the use of the language in dialogues and social interaction.

Meaning of Comprehension:

Comprehension includes the correct association of meanings with word symbols, the selection of the correct meaning suggested by the context, the organisation and retention of meanings, the ability to reason one's way through smaller ideas segments, and the ability to grasp, the meaning of a larger unitary idea.

Thorndike (1971) describes reading comprehension simply as thinking. To comprehend a pupil needs to understand language patterns, to recognise the structural elements composing a sentence and to perceive the syntactic inter relationship of these elements.

- Preview vocabulary before reading the story or text.
- Review new vocabulary during or after the text.

EXAMPLE Literal Comprehension Questions:

What does 'enchanted' mean?

What words are most like 'enchanted': Magical or funny? Scary or special?

- Look in the text to find the answers written in the story.
- Ask questions from the beginning, middle, and end of the story.

EXAMPLE Literal Comprehension Questions:

Who was the girl who lost the glass slipper?

Where did Cinderella go to live at the end of the story?

- Understand "facts" that are not explicitly stated in the story.
- Illustrations may help to infer meaning.

EXAMPLE Interpretive Comprehension Questions:

How did the pumpkin turn into a carriage?

What would have happened to Cinderella if she hadn't lost her slipper?

- Not a simple question that can be marked right or wrong.
- Challenge children to support their answer with logic or reason.

EXAMPLE Applied Comprehension Question:

Do you think Cinderella was wrong for going to the ball after her stepmother told her she couldn't go?