



Grammar and Reading:

Tips on Studying & Test-Taking

Practice reading every day outside the classroom.

- ✓ **Read major stories** in the newspapers or electronic news because major stories often repeat. Try www.cbc.ca/bc. Listen to the radio and watch the same stories on TV. Then discuss them with somebody.
- ✓ **Sign up at the tutor's desk.** Explain the "who", "when", "where", "what", "why" and "how" about a story that you read. Use new words to re-tell the story. Ask the tutor if you don't understand parts of a story.
- ✓ **Read many parts of the newspaper** to learn about many topics, for example, the business, political, entertainment, and editorial sections.
- ✓ **Read all English materials**, such as restaurant menus, ads, and magazines.
- ✓ **Read stories with your children.**
- ✓ **Go to the library and borrow books.** Read the first page to decide if the book is okay for you. If the book is too hard, you will not understand or remember ideas.
- ✓ **Write down and review vocabulary.** Words that you read or hear often are worth learning. Write down the complete sentence. Make study cards. The more you read and use words, the easier it will get.
- ✓ **Practice idioms.** They can't be translated, so practice them through reading, listening, computer programs, and speaking exercises.
- ✓ **Use a good English language dictionary** to study the meaning, spelling, and usage of new words. Write down related words, for example, "cream" → "creamy", "creamer", "cream of". Learn synonyms, for example, "cream" = "best".
- ✓ **Go to the Learning Centre and use reading resources** to test your understanding, build your vocabulary, use strategies such as context clues, and increase your speed.
- ✓ **Listen and read with a "talking book".** Books with tapes are in the library.
- ✓ **Write everyday** in a journal. Use new words. For advanced students, paraphrase, summarize, and criticize. Choose any topic and write your opinion.

Practice grammar every day.

- ✓ **Sign up at the tutor's desk and get help.** Ask about confusing grammar.
- ✓ **Test yourself at the Learning Centre.** Use the Learning Centre grammar pre-tests to find out which grammar points to review. Practice with Learning Centre handouts and other Learning Centre materials.
- ✓ **Focus on grammar in all language skills.** For example, if you are having difficulty in adjective clauses, practice combining 2 sentences, both written and orally. The tutor can suggest exercises.
- ✓ **Use computer programs and grammar books** with answer keys to practice.