Comprehension

Comprehension is the understanding and interpretation of what is read. To be able to accurately understand written material, children need to be able to (1) decode what they read; (2) make connections between what they read and what they already know; and (3) think deeply about what they have read

### What is reading comprehension and why is it important?

“Real reading has to do with thinking, learning, and expanding a reader’s knowledge and horizons. It has to do with building on past knowledge, mastering new information, and connecting with the minds of those you’ve never met.”

Zimmerman, S. and Hutchins, C. (2003) Seven keys to comprehension: How to help your kids read it and get it! New York: Three Rivers Press.

Reading comprehension is the ability to read text, process it and understand its meaning. It relies on two, interconnected abilities: word reading (being able to decode the symbols on the page) and language comprehension (being able to understand the meaning of the words and sentences).

When we make sense of a text, however, we don’t just remember the exact words and phrases we read. Rather, we form a mental model of what the text describes by integrating the sense of the words and sentences into a meaningful whole, like a film that plays in our head.

Good comprehension is vital if reading is to have a purpose, if a reader is to engage with and learn from a text and, ultimately, if a reader is to enjoy what they’re reading.

For more information about the nature of comprehension, an excellent introduction is provided by Understanding and Teaching Reading Comprehension: A handbook by Jane Oakhill, Kate Cain and Carsten Elbro (Routledge, 2014).

Foreign Phrases

**Ad Nauseam**  
“Ad Nauseam” is used as an adverb stemming from Latin which means “to a sickening or excessive degree.”  
Example: Lisa shouted “don’t touch me” ad nauseam.

**Bon voyage**  
Came from French, “bon voyage” is used as a noun meaning “have a nice trip.”  
Example: My friends shouted bon voyage when I left for my vacation.

**Bona fide**  
“Bona fide” is an adjective, came from the Latin language meaning “real or genuine.”  
Example: Michael’s brother is a bona fide expert in swimming.

**Carte blanche**  
“Carte blanche” is a noun originating from the French language and it means “authority or permission to do something the way one chooses to do it.”  
Example: Emma had carte blanche to organize that party.

**En masse**  
“En masse” means “a large group,” “as a single group,” or “all together.” It is used as an adverb and came from the French Language.  
Example: People left the football stadium en masse once when Brazil lost the match.

**Fait accompli**  
“Fait accompli” means “established fact” or “something that has been done and cannot be changed.” This phrase came from the French language and used as a noun.  
Example: Morris was disappointed, but his lost in the election was a fait accompli.

**Ipso facto**  
Originating from Latin, the phrase “Ipso facto” is used as an adverb which means “because of that fact” or “by the fact itself.”  
Example: A manager, ipso facto, is in charge of his or her department.

**Modus operandi**  
“Modus operandi” means “a usual way of doing something.” Came from Latin and used as a noun.  
Example: My modus operandi when studying is to set achievable goals.

**Persona non grata**  
“Persona non grata” means “an unacceptable person.” This Latin phrase is used as an adjective.  
Example: He was a persona non grata in our school because he wouldn’t follow the rules.

**Quid pro quo**  
“Quid pro quo” is a Latin phrase and used as a noun. It means “something for something” or “an equal exchange.”  
Example: Helping someone in study gives a feeling like a quid pro quo..

**35 Important Foreign Words and Expressions for use in the**[**English Language**](https://www.examweb.in/spoken-english-useful-sentences-for-daily-use-2633)**-**

1. Ab initio - From the beginning

2. Ad hoc - Extempore, For the special purpose

3. Alma Mater - mother institution ( school, College, university) a person attended

4. Apropos - ( French Expression) with reference to

5. Alibi - False excuse for absence, a piece of evidence ( generally false) that one was elsewhere when the act took place

6. Alter Ego - A bosom friend

7. Alpha and Omega - the beginning and the end

8. Alias - Nick Name ( Johnson alias Jonny )

9. Ad infinitum - Forever, For ending period

10. Bon voyage - French Expression - Good Journey

11. Bona Fide - Genuine, Sincere

12. Bonhomie - Friendliness, Sociability

## Thirty Five + Daily Use/ Important Foreign Words/ Expressions

13. Bourgeoisie - The middle class

14. Bete Noire - pet hate, a thing/person of disliking

15. Communique - Official Communication/ Information

16. Coiffeur - A hairdresser

17. Cuisine - Style of Cooking

18. Detour - Roundabout route

19. De jure - Legally, As per the law

20. De facto - Real / Actual

21. Deja vu - French Expression - Already seen/ felt

22. Denouement - Finale / Final part of a play

23. en bloc - Together/ In a group

24. ex gratia - Done with a sense of moral obligation, favor

25. Gratis - Free of cost, without charge

26. Leitmotif - A recurrent/repeated theme

27. Mutatis Mutandis - Making necessary changes

28. Potpourri - Mixture/ Collection/ Medley

29. Quid pro quo - Tit for tat

30. Status Quo - Existing state of affairs

31. Per se - by or in itself, naturally

32. Sobriquet - Nickname

33. Suo Moto - Latin Expression - On its own motion/ Act on its own initiative

34. Vendetta - Blood Feud,  Quarrel  between two families for vengeance.

35. Vis-a-vis - In relation to, Face to face

36. Plogging - Combination of Jogging with picking up litter ( from Swedish word plocka upp ) - very popular word in India now.

37. Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious - wonderful, beautiful