Reading/Comprehension Strategies

There are many strategies you can use to increase comprehension and retention. Use what is best for you. You may find a part of a strategy that you want to use more often than others. That's okay too. Just remember, strategies might work best if you go through the whole process.

SQ3R: This reading strategy physically engages the reader in the text. There is not as much to write down during SQ3R. In fact, the learner might want to use KWL during this process.

Survey	Look at the text: Check the layout, chapters, sections, graphs, pictures, words in bold and italics. Scan the text.
Question	Ask yourself questions. Use titles and keywords to create questions. (See KWL below)
Read	Actively read – think about the previous questions. Write down answers that you find and note anything else that you find interesting or important.
Recite	Summarize or repeat in your own words. This helps you with solidifying the information and you can see if you understood what you read.
Review	A day after you initially read the text, reread parts of the text that seem important or that you didn't understand. Look at your notes and add anything you missed or need to clarify for yourself.

Comprehension Check List: Be an active learner. Along with reading strategies, you can use metacognitive strategies to help you remember and learn what you read. Use your past knowledge to help you understand new material. Here are a few questions to get you started.

- ❑ What is it that I do not understand yet, and what do I understand?

- ❑ What is the most difficult part of this paragraph, page, chapter, etc.?

- ❑ What important keywords do I need to write down and understand?

- ❑ What do I understand completely?

- ❑ What can I explain to a friend or classmate?

Yes/No Questions

If you answer no to these questions, you may want to reread your assignment.

- ❑ Can I summarize the text when I try?

- ❑ Can I answer any questions that are in the book or on a study guide?

- ❑ Can I create my own questions about what I read?

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KWL (Know, Want to know, and Learned) is a method used to help engage the learner while reading. By thinking about subjects before reading, learners elicit and write prior subject knowledge in the **K** column. In the **W** column, learners bring their personal curiosity about the subject and engage in the text to find answers to their own questions. The **L** column encourages learners to actively take notes for comprehension and future review.

Know	**W**ant to Know	**L**earned