

## METHODS OF TEACHING READING COMPREHENSION FOR ESL AT MTS FAJAR SIDDIQ

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### ARTICLE INFO

#### Article History

Submission: Mei 01, 2024  
Review: Mei 10, 2024  
Revised: Mei 15, 2024  
Accepted: Mei 30, 2024  
Published: June 02, 2024

#### Keywords

Teaching Methods  
English Second Language (ESL)  
Reading Comprehension

### ABSTRACT

Reading is one way to enable students and teachers to broaden their horizons in thinking and behaving. The more you read, the better you will be in all your actions in daily life. In this case, the writer gives information for some methods of teaching reading comprehension for English Second Language (ESL). Therefore, the teachers can use the methods when they teach about reading. Hopefully, these methods will not only make the students but also English teachers enthusiastic in learning reading comprehension. Besides, this ESL focus to junior high school students. The teachers of English teach reading by giving some methods in learning process. Moreover, the writer gave questionnaire for the students to know about the condition in their class. The result of questionnaire showed that 52.9 % students like to study and 52.9% like to read English. Therefore, in this case, the teacher of English should give high motivation and introduce the method of learning English, especially Reading comprehension achievement. In order, the students will love to read in English more.

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Metode Pengajaran  
Bahasa Inggris sebagai bahasa kedua  
Pemahaman Membaca

### ABSTRACT

Membaca adalah salah satu cara untuk membuat siswa dan guru dapat memperluas wawasan dalam berfikir dan bersikap. Semakin banyak membaca, maka akan semakin baik juga dalam segala tindakan dalam kehidupan sehari-hari. Dalam hal ini, Penulis memberikan informasi tentang beberapa metode pengajaran pemahaman membaca untuk bahasa Inggris sebagai bahasa kedua (ESL). Oleh karena itu, guru dapat menggunakan metode tersebut ketika mengajar tentang membaca. Harapannya, metode ini tidak hanya membuat siswa tetapi juga guru bahasa Inggris antusias dalam mempelajari pemahaman membaca. Selain itu, bahasa Inggris sebagai bahasa kedua ini fokus ke siswa di sekolah menengah pertama. Guru bahasa Inggris mengajar membaca dengan memberikan beberapa metode dalam proses pembelajaran. Selain itu, penulis memberikan kuesioner kepada siswa untuk mengetahui kondisi kelasnya. Hasil kuesioner menunjukkan bahwa 52,9% siswa suka belajar dan 52,9% suka membaca bahasa Inggris. Oleh karena itu, dalam hal ini, Guru bahasa Inggris hendaknya memberikan motivasi yang tinggi dan memperkenalkan metode pembelajaran Bahasa Inggris, khususnya pencapaian pemahaman Reading. Agar siswa lebih senang membaca dalam bahasa Inggris.

## Introduction

According to Sweet (2003), reading comprehension is “as a process of simultaneously extracting and constructing meaning”. In other word, this is the process to conclude the meaning from the text. To know about the meaning of the words in the passages, of course the students have to know about the words or vocabulary. In addition, reading comprehension is enhanced when visual and verbal information are linked in the working memory. Then, reading comprehension is the way or process to understand the text or making meaning from the passages. If the students understand about the text, the students will be easier to gain the explanation from the text and also interpret the meaning of the text.

Moreover, there are the cycle of reading comprehension difficulties based on Sweet (2003) explanation, such as: (1) anxiety, (2) inappropriate use of cognitive strategies, (3) low reading expectations, (4) reading avoidance and poor vocabulary development, (5) less rewards and poor reading skill development, and (6) low reading self concept. Based on the problems, the teachers of English should think critically to motivate the students to read more, give high motivation to make them spirit, always ask the students to read from many books and find some difficult vocabulary words and try to find the meaning of those words, after that ask the studens to memorize the words step by step, and of course give some methods for learning reading to make them enjoy in class.

Klingner, J.K., Vaughn, S., & Boardman, A. (2015) descibe that the ways to ultimate goals of learning to read, such as: understanding about the text, learning from the text, and try to enjoy in reading. There are some strategies and skills that good readers use, for examples: rapid and accurate word of reading, setting goals for reading, noting the structure and organization of text, monitoring their understanding while reading, and creating summaries and mental notes, making predictions about what will happen in the passages and don't forget to check, revise, and evaluate them, capitalizing about the topic and integrating that with new learning, making inferences, and using mental images, such as visualization to assist the students in understanding or remembering characters or events.

In this case, the writer chose reading comprehension for teaching ESL (English Second Language) because reading is very important to students. Tieperman, J. (2024) explains that “teaching English as a second language for beginner is super rewarding, but it definitely fell a little daunting when you're stepping into the classroom for the first time”. It means that the teachers of English should know what to teach and how to teach in the class. In order, the teachers and students can have a fun and productive class. In addition, the teachers of English can use some methods here based on the expanation here. Based on the one of the examples from previous study, Novianty, M. (2015) found that there are two examples of method that can be use by the teachers based on here research, such as: “concept mapping” and “Venn diagrams”. From her research, the researcher explains that concept mapping and Venn diagrams are beneficial, effective, and bring positive impacts for the students in reading comprehension achievement. In this case, the researcher gives

suggestions for the future reseachers that concept mapping and Venn diagrams not only be use for the student in learning English, but also for other subjects, such as: biology, math, science, history, and others.

### **How to Teach English Second Language (ESL)**

According to Zambas, J. (2022), there are 15 useful tips for teaching English as a Second Language, such as:

**1. Have the right qualifications**

It means that if you are serious about teaching ESL, you have to obtain a bachelor's degree.

**2. Keep it simple**

This is one of the most important rules to follow when you teach ESL. Therefore, as a Teacher, the teacher should choose the simple vocabulary to speak English. Then, introduce new words step by step.

**3. Use lots of visual**

The teachers of English have to use lots of visual in teaching Second language, for examples by labelling chairs, desks, doors, screens, and computers. The teacher also can use the pictures and build a pictorial wall to improve the students' vocabulary and then match a meaning with a word. In ESL classroom, a picture really does speak a thousand words and by using timelines effectively to explain grammatical tenses, therefore the students will be able to absorb information faster.

**4. Make your lesson fun**

Don't try to make the students feel bored in the class. Because it can make them hard to understand about the lesson. Give the games as long as they study, especially in learning Reading Comprehension. Therefore, games are also a great activity.

**5. Plan and prepare in advanced**

The teacher should prepare to print enough worksheets for the entire class and ensure to allocate the lesson time while also having backup solutions in the event an activity isn't working very well. Then, the teacher have to think how to introduce a new language in the class, and whether the students are ready to move on with the syllabus or if anything need revisiting. Don't try to move onto the new topics without making sure all the students are comfortable. The teacher can use a small pop quiz at the beginning of the lesson.

**6. Create a safe and supportive environment**

The students need to feel safe and supported to express themselves fully. They don't want to be scared of making a mistake, and they should dealt with the utmost compassion. Encourage them to speak up and correct errors carefull.

**7. Set classroom rules**

The teachers have to think about the rules in the classroom. Without set rules in place, your classroom can be unruly and the teachers may waste their time telling the students off instead of focusing on what they should be learning. Therefore, the teacher should give verbal and written instructions, and place a list of them in a visible area.

**8. Use different learning techniques**

The teachers have to use different learning techniques, for examples : games, quizzes, show-and-tells, silent reading, and act-it-out challenges. After the teachers choose to adopt the method, then the teachers should give time for the students to recap and have a break in between tasks.

**9. Be mindful of cultural differences**

The teachers should know about cultural differences. For examples: There are certain areas where you will need to respect the cultural norms, though. For example, in some cultures, it's rude to make eye contact, whereas in the Western world, it's a sign that the person is paying attention to you. The first step to overcoming these differences is to create a bond with your student to make them feel comfortable within your presence, and then establish boundaries.

**10. Use technology**

Teaching methods are continually evolving. The teachers of English are constantly learning, too. Long gone are the days of chalk and a chalkboard; in today's digital age, the use of technology is vital in an active learning process. To connect with your tech-savvy students, you can use short clips, language apps and music in your classroom. You could also send questionnaires to their phones and gather responses instantly. Just bear in mind that not all students will have tech devices, so it's important to use these methods with older students who are more likely to own a smartphone or a tablet.

**11. Encourage students to set learning goals**

A good way to keep the students motivated throughout each semester is to have your students set down some short-and-long-term goals for their learning journey. Whether it's to read a novel by the end of the year, have a conversation with a native English speaker or get full marks on a writing test, encouraging the students to set learning targets will help them stay focused and track their progress. Having them share some of their goals with the teachers could also help you create appropriate lessons and activities that are relevant to their objectives, making them more relatable and exciting for them.

**12. Create a timeline**

From the beginning of the year until the final semester, the teachers of English should have a clear timeline for each of the classes. This will help the teachers stay organized and allow to have a clear image of teachers' own teaching objectives. The teachers should also establish checkpoints within the teachers' timeline where they evaluate your student's progress and check if the teachers are hitting the teaching goals.

Whether the teachers are falling behind in your grammar lessons or way ahead with listening classes, they can revise your timeline accordingly to make sure your students' needs are being met and that they're making progress.

### **13. Use positive reinforcement**

Learning a new language can be overwhelming. It is your job, then, as a teacher to ensure your students feel confident to practice their language skills and to make mistakes in the process. This is where positive reinforcement comes in. Instead of blatantly telling a student that they're wrong after making a mistake, praise them for their effort and encourage them to try again.

### **14. Introduce interactive activities**

One of the best ways to optimize language acquisition and boost the students' confidence in your classroom is through interactive activities and group work. Not only will this help them practice their verbal communication skills but also get to know their peers better. When teaching English to adults, interactive work is especially important as it can help more inhibited students come out of their shell. While you should encourage them to step out of their comfort zone, make sure that all your students are on board with this approach, and note down which people work better in pairs and bigger teams.

### **15. Set up an online teaching space**

Teaching English in a virtual classroom has its own set of challenges. A good way to organize yourself better is to create a practical and functional online teaching space for yourself. Start by designating a specific area in your house where your teaching will take place-make sure that your selected spot has good internet connection and is comfortable and quiet. Then, focus on equipping yourself with the necessary tools; whether that's online applications and virtual teaching platforms or a physical chalkboard that the teachers of English can use to illustrate language rules, assess your needs as an online language teacher and invest in the resources that are right for you.

## **Methods of Teaching Reading Comprehension for ESL**

According to Tieperman, J. (2024), there are 3 methods in teaching English Second Language for beginners, such as:

Method 1: Essential Lesson Components, for examples:

#### **1. Alphabet and numbers**

Starting with lessons about the alphabet and teaching number-related lessons provides your students with a great foundation for future learning, for instances: (1) Using the Beginning Alphabetics Tests & Tools (BATT) pamphlet is a very helpful resource for teaching your ESL students about the alphabet., (2) Teach your students

learn the alphabet up to a certain point if you'd rather teach the lesson in chunks start at "A" and go to "M," for example. Have the students finish the alphabet at a pace you are both comfortable with. The point is to push the students without pushing them too hard., (3) Try using flashcards with a word that begins with each letter of the alphabet to reinforce your lesson, (4) When it comes to numbers, start by teaching your students to count up (using your fingers helps). From there, work toward counting down, as well as counting in larger chunks (like counting in 10s and 5s).

## 2. Phonic

Teaching pronunciation is an extremely important part of your ESL lessons. Focus on sounds that are particularly hard for English as a second language students to grasp, like:

- TH: The "TH" (like in "theater" or "thing") does not exist in certain languages. As a result, it's relatively hard for some ESL students to pronounce.
- R: The "R" sound is also difficult for many ESL learners, as it's often pronounced differently across different languages. For instance, French individuals make the "R" sound using their throat. Meanwhile, native Spanish speakers "roll" their "R" sounds.
- L: The "L" sound is another difficult one for ESL learners, as some languages don't have the "L" sound in their alphabet.
- H: The "H" sound is tricky for some ESL learners, since it's tough to tell when it needs to be pronounced sometimes.

## 3. Nouns

Teaching nouns will be one of the easiest things for the students to learn. Start with common objects in the classroom, before moving on to common objects, good examples are words like car, house, tree, road, and more. Continue on to objects your students will encounter in their daily lives, like food, electronics, and more.

- Take some time to describe the difference between singular and plural nouns, as well as explain how proper nouns need to be capitalized. Pictures are a great way to help your students understand nouns, as well as fill-in-the-blank exercises.
- Take some time to talk about English pronouns as well. These include: I, you, he, she, we, they, and them

## 4. Adjectives

It helps to teach adjectives right after the teachers teach nouns because adjectives are used exclusively with nouns. Explain how adjectives change or describe other nouns, and provide some examples.

- For a fun lesson, show your students an interesting picture and invite them to describe it with adjective-filled sentences.

## 5. Verbs

Teaching verbs will be a huge step in your student's sentence construction skills. Explain how verbs describe an action, and provide some examples, like jump, run, or become.

- Spend extra time teaching irregular verbs. The word go is a great example of this, as the past tense of go is went, while the past participle of go becomes gone.
- Flashcards and role-playing games are just a couple of effective ways to teach verbs in the classroom.

#### 6. Adverbs

Explain how adverbs allow the teachers to add extra details to the sentence, and how the students can use adverbs to clarify how or to what degree they did something. Adverbs also add more detail when using adjectives to describe a noun.

- If a word ends in -ly, it's likely an adverb.

#### 7. Tenses and articles

After the teachers of English covered nouns, adjectives, verbs, and adverbs you need to move on to teaching tenses and articles to your students. Without understanding how to use the proper tense and where to use articles, the students will not be able to put whole sentences together.

- Tenses explain when something has happened or occurred. Make sure to explain past tense, current tense, and future tense.
- Articles are adjectives that provide extra information about a noun. Articles include: a, an, and the.
- Make sure your students master tenses and articles, as they are an essential part of sentence writing.

#### 8. Common phrases

One great way to teach English is to encourage your students to practice and use common phrases. This is important, since your students won't understand the meaning of many common phrases just based off of the literal meaning of the words. Begin with a few common phrases like never mind, no doubt, or make believe. It might also help to provide your students with a list of common phrases to work with and think about.

- Tell your students to repeat those phrases (and use them) until they feel comfortable using them in conversation.

#### 9. Basic sentence construction

After the teachers have taught the alphabet, verbs, and more, they should begin to teach your students basic sentence construction. This is important, as it will provide a foundation to their writing ability, as well as aid them in reading. Focus on the main patterns that sentences in English are constructed around:

- Subject-Verb, For instance, "The cat runs."

- Subject-Verb-Direct Object, For instance, "Micheal eats noodles."
- Subject-Verb-Complement, For instance, "The puppy seems healthy."
- Subject-Verb-Indirect Object-Direct Object, For instance, "The girl gave my mom a casserole."
- Subject-Verb-Direct Object-Object Complement: These sentences have a subject, a verb, a direct object, and end with an object complement (like an adjective, noun or pronoun). For instance, "My sister made the cat frustrated."

Method 2: Best Classroom Practices, for examples:

1. Speak to students with simple language,
2. Encourage students to speak more English in the classroom,
3. Provide verbal and written instructions,
4. Do drill exercises to help your students learn,
5. Check in with your students to make sure they understand everything,
6. Utilize a variety of teaching styles in the classroom,
7. Break lesson into small pieces,
8. Reminds the students that it's okay to make mistakes.

Method 3: Fun teaching strategies, for examples:

1. Reinforce the topic of the day with games, such as: try a Jeopardy-type game, try a Family Feud-style game, and try a Taboo-style game,
2. Use visual to teach language, such as: Pictures and photographs, post-cards, video, maps, and restaurant menus.
3. Invite your students to use language-learning apps, such as: targeted language apps, and some apps provide the opportunity for multiple students to work together to learn.
4. Encourage students to practice their language skills on social media, such as: try an "idiom of the day", using twitter, and other social media group to learn.

### **The Procedure of Teaching Reading Comprehension for ESL:**

The teacher:

1. greets the students,
2. describes what is English Second Language (ESL),
3. describes what is Reading Comprehension,
4. explains how to study about reading,
5. motivates the students to read more about English,
6. gives some explanation about the methods in learning reading,



7. gives the worksheets for students to answers some questions,
8. gives the suggestions, conclusions and reflections after the class about reading comprehension for ESL.

The students (English Second Language, ESL):

1. listen the rules from the teacher,
2. understand about the meaning of ESL and reading comprehension,
3. read the reading passages,
4. write the difficult vocabulary words and translate it in Indonesia,
5. learn about the methods in learning reading,
6. ask questions and answer the questions for the teacher through reading activities,
7. Understand about some methods in learning reading comprehension,
8. Give conclusion to the teacher.

## Method

The research design in this study is qualitative research. Creswell, J. H. (2012) describes that qualitative research often mentions naturalist research methods because the research methods carried out under different conditions. In addition, Daymon, C., & Holloway, I. (2021) explain about the characteristics of qualitative research, such as: (1) Words, the qualitative research focuses on words rather than numbers., (2) researcher involvement, (3) participants viewpoints, (4) small-scale studies, (5) holistic focus, (6) flexible, (7) processual, (8) natural settings, and (9) Inductive then deductive.

## Results and Discussion

To know about English in junior high school, especially in MTS Fajar Siddiq Palembang from 17 students. The writer gave 2 questions for the questionnaire. Based on the result of the questionnaire, for number one (1), the result showed that 52.9% students like to learn English and 47.1% students answered that they don't like to learn English, for number two (2), the result showed also the same that 52.9% students like to read from 17 students, and 47.1% students answerer that they do't like to read. Therefore, based on the result from the researcher, the teacher have to fine some methods for learning about reading comprehension.

Based on the questionnaire, the researcher also asked the students to think about how the ways in order they like to read correctly and what have they do to be better in reading. Furthermore, some of students answered that they have to read and study about English continuously and join the English course around them in order they are smart in English, study hard and seriously, learn from social media, read English by learning continuously, by

watching, listening to videos on You-Tube, study hard to study English, learn how to speak English, learn to use technology, such as cellphones and computers or laptops, the students answered that they have to read many books to improve their reading skills, practice to read aloud in English, try to memorize about the vocabulary words and try to spell the words, read and write about what they read, in order they can understand about the passages, and also read more from English Dictionary to improve the vocabulary in order when they read the reading passages, they can understand about all the story about.

**Table 2**

*The Result of Questionnaire*

No	Question	Answer	
		Yes	No
1	Do you like to learn English?	52.9 %	47.1%
2	Do you like to read about English?	52.9 %	47.1%

This questionnaire is beneficial to give for the students. It is very useful because after the researcher gives the sample of the questionnaire, the researcher can understand about the students' feeling, how they feel about English, they like English or not, and etc. From the result of the questionnaire from the students as English Second Learner (ESL), the teachers of English should (1) to prepare the materials about reading better, (2) give some strategies in teaching reading, (3) motivate to students in order they have high motivation in reading about English. In this research, the writer focus to teach reading by giving some methods to the students in learning English. Hopefully, the students can improve their reading ability, improve their new vocabulary words during the reading activities.

## **Conclusion**

To make English Second Learner (ESL) happy to learn English, the teachers of English should have a high motivation in order they can motivate the students to learn. Based on the experience of the writer met the students in MTS Fajar siddiq, the writer have to give the methods in learning reading comprehension based on the explanation above, for examples using concept mapping, Venn diagrams, games, flashcards, quizzes, show-and-tells, silent reading, act-it-out, short clips, language apps, music in your classroom, phones, tutor online or online language teacher, virtual classroom, online classroom, online application, virtual teaching platforms, physical chalkboard, also Alphabetics Tests & Tools (BATT) pamphlet.

## Declarations

I declare that the information or manuscript from this article is true, original contribution, complete to the best of my knowledge, does not violate any privacy rights, and does not infringe any copyright. Meanwhile, this work was supported by University of Palembang (2024), The Faculty of Economic (2024), English Education Study Program (2024), and MTS Fajar Siddiq Palembang, South Sumatera (2024).

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