

AN OVERVIEW OF STRATEGIC READING

STEP	WHAT TO DO ...	WHY?	HOW TO DO IT ...
PREVIEW	<p><u>Get an overview</u> of the text before you start to study it. <u>Connect</u> the material to any previous knowledge you may have about the subject.</p>	<p>Getting a quick preview of the whole chapter will help you later while you're reading. You'll be able to fill in details more easily if you start with a simplified look at the chapter. You'll probably get a few broad ideas and main points. You'll remember more and better when you see the details in relationship to larger ideas.</p>	<p>Take three to five minutes before you begin and read the <u>introduction</u>, glance through the <u>subheadings</u>, <u>figures</u>, and <u>charts</u>, and read the <u>summary</u>. Identify main ideas, and connect them to your background knowledge.</p>
<p>When you have finished previewing, you should have a sense of what the chapter is about, how it is organized, how difficult the material is, and how long you will need to study it to accomplish your purposes.</p>			
READ	<p><u>Read</u> the chapter <u>section by section</u>. Stop after each section and briefly <u>hold yourself responsible</u> for what you have read.</p>	<p>New material is learned by taking fragments of information and "chunking" them into longer more meaningful patterns. Then you can put the patterns together to form a whole. This method of study helps you fit the information you receive into a better overall understanding.</p>	<p>Decide for yourself what an important chunk of material is; <u>read it and do something immediately</u> with what you have read. For example, ask yourself a question before each section, and try to answer it after you read. You can also re-think it, re-state it, underline, make a note about it, etc. Take breaks as needed.</p>
<p>When you have read in this fashion, you have been tremendously ACTIVE as a learner. Active learning enhances both your concentration and your memory.</p>			
RECALL	<p><u>Review</u> the text <u>as soon as you have finished reading it</u>.</p>	<p>Most (40-60%) of what you have learned is forgotten <u>right after</u> you learn it! In order to cut down on forgetting, remind yourself of what you have just read. Then review briefly several times before you need to use the material.</p>	<p>Turn your previewing techniques into reviewing ones. In a few minutes, <u>leaf</u> through the chapter again. <u>Reread</u> what you've annotated; <u>recall</u> the most important ideas. <u>Summarize</u> what you just read in your own words.</p>
<p>Review immediately after reading the first time and periodically thereafter. The more you need to know something well enough to use it, the more seriously you should review periodically until the material is thoroughly learned.</p>			