

IMPROVING STUDENTS' ENGLISH READING SKILLS

**A COMPREHENSIVE BANK OF COURSES,
EXERCISES, RESOURCES & OTHER
COMPONENTS DESIGNED TO SUPPORT THE
READING CENTRE OPERATED BY SIU'S SCHOOL
OF LIBERAL ARTS**

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CISCE

Centre for International Studies &
Continuing Education

shinawatra  university
FOSTERING INNOVATION FORTIFYING SOCIAL VIRTUE

INTRODUCTION

The Centre for International Studies and Continuing Education (CISCE) at Shinawatra University (SIU) has been asked to assist the School of Liberal Arts (SOLA) by contributing a bank of studying resources students may use at SIU's Reading Centre to enhance their English reading skills.

CISCE has therefore compiled a bank of such resources from which students may choose for the foregoing purpose. The resources consist of exercises, tests, games and other components students may follow online at their own pace, selecting items they find suitable and helpful.

These resources have been divided into 4 courses ('English Reading Skills I, II, III and IV' respectively), the nature and contents of which are set forth in the pages that follow. These pages contain links to Internet URLs at which the relevant exercises etc may be accessed, viewed and followed.

To pursue these courses, students need a computer, an Internet connection and – in some instances – specialised equipment such as a computer microphone or headphones and registration / log-in facilities such as email or similar accounts.

CISCE would be pleased to receive feedback or recommendations from students who decide to follow any of these courses or to answer any queries they may have about the courses' practical or theoretical aspects. Technical queries should be addressed to local IT support staff.

I hope you find the English Reading Skills courses useful and that your aptitude and confidence in using English will grow as you follow and successfully complete their contents and exercises.

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ENGLISH READING SKILLS I

ENGLISH READING SKILLS (I)

This course helps students to refine their English reading ability within a wider, multi- skilled communicative context which also includes speaking, writing and note taking. Students need to have acquired an intermediate standard of English before they commence studying on this course. The course is taken from a study programme provided by ALISON (the international MOOC organisation based in the Republic of Ireland); students need a computer, an Internet connection and one of the following – a Facebook account, a LinkedIn account, a Yahoo account, a Google account or a Windows Live (Hotmail) account) in order to register and then log in. CISCE SIU has selected aspects of this programme relevant to the development and improvement of students' English reading skills. Students who elect to follow ENGLISH READING SKILLS (I) may proceed at their own pace, select units they find suitable, congenial and helpful and – if they so wish – conduct an assessment exercise upon their completion of a wider range of exercises.

1. AN APPROACH TO STUDYING A TEXT

This course covers a particular aspect of reading: the range of different approaches used to study a text (such as identifying text, character analysis, examining structure and exploring themes). It consists of the following sections:

Reading and study of texts (novels, plays, non-print)

What is involved in text study?

Writing text essays

Reading journal

Identifying text

Character analysis

Examining structure

Exploring themes

An approach to text study

Construct a running sheet

Reorganising notes under four main headings

Other proven strategies

LINK: <<http://alison.com/courses/Using-English-Effectively/content/scorm/1471/an-approach-to-studying-a-text>>

2. ANALYSING MEDIA LANGUAGE

This course further develops students' reading skills by introducing them to the techniques involved in analysing of the language used by the media. It consists of the following sections:

Analysing written media arguments

Analysing language

Learning the language of analysis quiz

LINK: <<http://alison.com/courses/Using-English-Effectively/content/scorm/1472/analysing-media-language>>

3. ANALYSING THE LANGUAGE OF THE MEDIA

This course further advances students' reading and associated skills by showing them how to apply the linguistic analytical tools to which they were introduced in the previous course through examining and breaking down the language used by the media. It consists of the following sections:

The contention (main idea, argument, position)

Language analysis

Sample 1 analysis

Sample 2 analysis

LINK: <<http://alison.com/courses/Using-English-Effectively/content/scorm/1470/analysing-the-language-of-the-media>>

4. ANALYSING THE TEXT OF 'THE GREAT GATSBY'

This course provides students with a practical case study in which they can apply the skills learnt in previous courses through an in-depth textual analysis of the book 'The Great Gatsby' by F Scott Fitzgerald. Reading and writing skills are drawn together in a way that makes textual analysis and production part of a holistic communication process. It consists of the following sections:

Writing an English essay using 'The Great Gatsby' as an example

Ideas and concept mapping

Writing a plan

Writing the essay

The body

The conclusion

Sample answer

LINK: <<http://alison.com/courses/Using-English-Effectively/content/scorm/1473/text-analysis-of-the-great-gatsby>>

5. APPROACHES TO ENGLISH

This course covers and helps students to identify various literary devices they may encounter in their reading and textual analysis and in the wider process of communicating in English, such as rhetorical questions, repetition, hyperbole, metaphor, analogy, alliteration and assonance. It consists of the following sections:

Analysing language and literary devices

Loaded language

Rhetorical questions

Repetition

Hyperbole & exaggeration

Metaphor

Analogy

Alliteration

Assonance

LINK: <<http://alison.com/courses/Using-English-Effectively/content/scorm/1474/approaches-to-english>>

ENGLISH READING SKILLS II

ENGLISH READING SKILLS (II)

This course helps students to enhance their English reading ability by following short stories, by completing cloze tests, by completing speed reading exercises, by studying more extensive reading passages drawn from literary, media, scientific and legal text sources, by integrating reading with listening skills and by participating in a language learning game. Students need to have acquired a lower intermediate standard of English as a minimum entrance level before they commence studying on this course. The course is taken from a study programme provided by the ESL Resource Centre (<<http://eslus.com/eslcenter.htm>>). Students wishing to follow this course need a computer equipped with a loudspeaker or headphones and an Internet connection. CISCE SIU has selected aspects of this programme relevant to the development and improvement of students' English reading skills. Students who elect to follow ENGLISH READING SKILLS (II) may proceed at their own pace and select whichever units they find suitable, congenial and helpful.

LINK: <<http://www.eslus.com/LESSONS/READING/CLOZE/R1.HTM>> et seq.

Reading Skills

Mini-stories with cloze exercises: [#1](#) [#2](#) [#3](#) [#4](#) [#5](#) [#6](#) [#7](#) [#8](#)

Speed reading exercises: [#1](#) [#2](#) [#3](#) [#4](#) [#5](#)

Extensive reading: [Fiction](#) [US newspapers](#) [International newspapers](#) [Science](#) [Law](#)

Science reading: [#1](#)

Read and listen: [#1](#)

Text Adventures [#1](#)

ENGLISH READING SKILLS III

ENGLISH READING SKILLS (III)

This course helps students to enhance their English reading ability within the context of wider academic skills. It is derived from a wider study programme provided by Using English for Academic Purposes (<www.uefap.net>), a UK-based EAP support service for university students.

Students who follow this course examine reading skills for academic study, how to read efficiently (using scanning, skimming and other techniques), understanding reading, note taking while reading, reading strategies, reading critically and reading exercises.

Students need to have acquired an upper intermediate standard of English as a minimum entrance level before they commence studying on this course.

CISCE SIU has selected aspects of the more extensive UEfAP programme relevant to the development and improvement of students' English reading skills. Students wishing to follow this course need a computer equipped with a loudspeaker or headphones and an Internet connection. Students who elect to follow ENGLISH READING SKILLS (III) may proceed at their own pace and select whichever units they find suitable, congenial and helpful.

LINK: <<http://www.uefap.net/reading/reading-advice>> et seq.

ENGLISH READING SKILLS IV

ENGLISH READING SKILLS (IV)

English Reading Skills (IV) consists of a bank of resources drawn from various English reading comprehension exercises, many of which are based on established ESL examination questions (including Cambridge ESOL, TOEFL, IELTS and other major examinations). Students may select exercises suitable for their level and needs from a hierarchy of examination types or by browsing the level categories ('beginner', 'intermediate' and 'advanced').

This course helps students of all levels and aptitudes enhance their English reading ability by selecting and following comprehension tasks appropriate for them. It is derived from a wider study programme provided by UE (Using English.Com) - (<<http://www.usingenglish.com/>>), an international online resource bank of ESL tools and resources for students, teachers, learners and academics, covering the full spectrum of ESL, EFL, ESOL and EAP subject areas.

Students who follow this course simply choose and follow appropriate comprehension exercises suitable for their current standard and their future aspirations. CISCE SIU has included the full range of comprehension exercises available to all levels with reference to the development and improvement of students' English reading skills. Students wishing to follow this course need a computer equipped with a loudspeaker or headphones and an Internet connection. Students who elect to follow ENGLISH READING SKILLS (IV) may proceed at their own pace and select whichever units they find suitable, congenial and helpful.

LINK: <<http://www.usingenglish.com/comprehension/>> et seq.