

Extensive and Intensive Reading

Reading is the means to study something, wherein the reader looks at the words, symbol and characters of the material so as to comprehend its meaning. Extensive reading and Intensive Reading are the two common approaches to language learning.

Extensive Reading:

Definition: Extensive Reading can be defined as a casual reading performed for pleasure or gaining general understanding on a topic when the students are engrossed in a book, magazine or newspaper.

Example: Reading of story book, magazine or newspaper.

Characteristics of Extensive Reading:

1. Extensive Reading is done to enjoy the reading and gaining a better understanding of the concept.
2. The readers look for easy, interesting and amusing books, so as to improve their reading fluency and speed as well.
3. The individual can select the book or material of his choice, on the topic that matches their interest.
4. The text is comparatively simple, containing a few unfamiliar words.
5. There is no follow-up discussion to be held in the class for what the students have learnt during their reading.
6. Extensive Reading is just to encourage the habit of reading in students for pleasure and make them a good reader.

Intensive Reading:

Definition: Intensive Reading is the reading method which requires intimate study of a text with the objective of getting its literary or linguistic meaning.

Example: Reading of book of syllabus, research paper.

Characteristics of Intensive Reading:

1. In intensive reading, the readers reads the text with concentration and due care, in detail, as it has certain learning aims and tasks.
2. It is the in-depth reading of a comparatively shorter piece of reading material, to gain complete knowledge from it.
3. It aims at identifying the answers to the questions of reading comprehension.
4. It involves an analysis of the text by looking over each word, phrase and sentences.
5. Theintensive reading isaimed for understanding of the subject matter, improving grammar and vocabulary.
6. Its objective is understanding the thought of the author in the text.

Difference between Extensive and Intensive Reading

Extensive Reading	Intensive Reading
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In Extensive reading, the reader reads multiple books, newspaper, magazines etc. to get a general understanding of the topic of their interest. 2. It is a supplementary reading which is concerned with decoding of the written material. 3. Extensive reading is reading for fun, entertainment and pleasure, as well as to gain a basic understanding of something. 4. In it, the use a dictionary is not done, as understanding each and every word contained in the material is not required. 5. Extensive reading involves a reading of novels, journals, newspaper and magazines. 6. It is helpful for developing reading fluency 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Intensive reading is concerned with classroom learning, wherein the student reads some text to understand the topic. 2. Intensive reading is comprehensive in nature, as it involves comprehension of the written text. 3. Intensive reading is reading to understand the literal meaning of the text being read. 4. In intensive reading, readers have to use the dictionary, to understand the meaning of every single word which is unfamiliar to them. 5. As against, intensive reading is all about textbook reading. 6. It is helpful for Developing reading skills, vocabulary and grammatical knowledge.

Skimming and Scanning

Reading is considered as a leisure activity but it is actually a technique. Skimming and scanning are the two similarly appearing techniques for reading.

Skimming: Skimming is the technique of reading at faster speed to gain the general idea about the text.

- e.g.
1. Newspaper reading
 2. Reading a book while purchasing from market.

Procedure of Skimming:

1. Read the starting and ending lines of the text.
2. Read the headings, sub-headings and important words of the text.

Scanning: Scanning is to the technique of searching a particular word in the text.

- e.g.
1. Scanning a dictionary for finding a word.
 2. Scanning a directory for finding a name.

Procedure of Scanning:

1. Read the starting letters of word if the arrangement is alphabetically.
2. If the words are not arranged alphabetically, read the text by keeping the initial word in mind.

Difference between Skimming and Scanning

Skimming	Scanning
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Skimming is the method of reading a text faster to get the general idea.2. It is having a quick look on the text for the general idea.3. It is achieved by reading the text quickly.4. It requires a lower understanding of word recognition.5. Newspaper reading is an example of skimming.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Scanning is the searching a particular word in the text.2. It is having a look at the whole text for finding a word.3. It is achieved by finding the desired words in the text.4. It requires a higher understanding of word recognition.5. Use of dictionary is an example of scanning.

Hence, skimming and scanning are two very different strategies for reading rapidly. They are used for different purposes and they require different reading skills, but they are very significant to go about reading comprehension.