

Active Reading

Active reading may seem overwhelming and time consuming. Using these strategies may actually *lessen* the time you spend reading!



Pre-Reading






- **Set up your environment** Consider lighting, noise, and location
- **Get to know the text** Skim the text's introduction or summary, headings/subheadings, key terms, graphics, etc.
- **Define your purpose** Turn headings into questions. For example, the heading "Internal Receptors" is in a biology chapter about cell communication. You can turn the heading into "Where in the cell are internal receptors?"
- **Divide the chapter(s) into manageable sections** Take a short break between large headings



Reading

- **Paraphrase the text or take notes** After each paragraph, stop and summarize what you just read
- **Answer** embedded questions
- **Use symbols** to track your thinking
- **Record your thoughts** in the margins or your notes

Examples of Symbols

-  Confusing concept
-  Important
-  Key Term (underline or highlight)
-  Mastered concept
-  Cycle or process



Post-Reading

- **Answer** self-created heading questions, book questions, and homework questions
- **Outline** big ideas and supporting details in your own words
- **Make a concept map** to illustrate relationships and connections
- **Solve example problems** Write clear explanations at each step
- **Combine and connect** reading notes and lecture/class notes