

Comprehension

6. There are different levels of comprehension. The purpose of the reading you do will determine the level of comprehension you will need. The different levels are:

- literal
- inferential
- critical

7. Literal comprehension means you can restate the ideas and information from your reading in your own words. You understand the words and the grammar used, you can recall the main idea, and you know the sequence of information presented.

8. Inferential comprehension means you can explain ideas and information from your reading that were not explicitly stated. You understand the author's purpose and attitude, and you infer facts, main ideas, comprehensions, and cause-and-effect relationships not directly stated. Your past experiences and background are used as a basis for your hypotheses, and you are able to add your own thoughts to what the author was trying to say.

9. Critical comprehension means you can analyze and evaluate the ideas and information found in your reading. You can make judgments of reality vs. fantasy, fact vs. opinion, validity, morality, and value.

(101 Ways to Read with Speed and Understanding by Denise Bieniek, Troll Communications, 1996, 15-16)