



Before Reading Strategies

1 Determine Your Purpose for Reading

The first step in preparing to read is figuring out *why* you are reading. Do you have a specific goal to reach, or are you reading for your own interest? Understanding why you are reading will help you to choose the best text and decide what other strategies you will use before, during and after reading. Check out [Purpose for Reading](#) for more help.

2 Choose a Text

Sometimes you will already know what text you have to read—for example, if everyone in the class is reading a short story together. Other times you will have to choose a text yourself—for example, if you are doing research or if you are reading for enjoyment. Knowing how to choose a text that is right for you will make reading easier, more successful and more fun. Check out [Choosing Reading Material](#) for a process you can follow.

3 Select Strategies

Once you know why you are reading and what you are reading, you can choose the best strategies to use for that situation. Think about all of the strategies you have used before, as well as those you have never tried. Which ones will help you the most before you start reading? You might try some of the following strategies.



Make predictions before you start reading. Ask yourself what you think this text will be about and how it might help you. Write down your thoughts so you can compare your predictions to what you find out as you read. Check out [Strategies for Making Predictions](#) for more help.

➡ **Make connections** between what you will be reading and what you have read, learned or experienced before. Check out [Strategies for Making Connections](#) for more help.

➡ **Think of questions** that you hope will be answered in the text. Write your questions down and then look for the answers as you read.



Use Tools [Making Connections I](#), [Making Connections II](#), [Making Predictions I](#), [Making Predictions II](#), [Guiding Reading with Questions](#), [Preparing for Reading](#).