

READING

It's more than the ABCs

We were all taught to read for enjoyment and many of us still do. How can you enjoy your textbook?

YOU CAN'T! And you're not supposed to.

Textbooks are meant to be understood, not enjoyed. They exist to supplement the lecture and allow you learn more about concepts you don't understand or dive into topics further than class time allows.

Reading a textbook is an entirely different skill than reading a novel. Here are some tips:

Survey the chapter – Each chapter in a text begins with a preview paragraph or 2 that outlines what you will be studying. At the end of the chapter there is a short review of what you should have learned. Read these sections first. They will tell you what the most important information is and will help you to focus.

Skim – The chapter will mostly be filled with examples to help explain the lesson. Look for section headings, pictures and diagrams. Read each section after you have skimmed it. Pay close attention to visual aids (pictures, words in bold, etc.)

Summarize – You should be able to summarize the chapter in your own words. If not, you may need to read some of the sections again to get a better understanding of the material.

Study – Before a test look over each chapter, focusing on the emboldened words, pictures, chapter preview and chapter review. Read further on any concepts that you don't understand.