Learn English Today: **READING SKILLS**



What is Reading?

Reading is one of the four language **skills:** reading, writing, listening and speaking. It is a **receptive skill,** like This listening. This means it involves responding to text, rather than producing it. Very simply we can say that reading involves making sense of text. To do this we need to understand the language of the text at word level, sentence level and whole-text level. Our reasons for reading influence how we read, ie. which reading **subskill** [a skill that is part of a main skill] we use.

* **Reading for specific information or scanning.** e.g.When you look for a number, place or person in a book.
* **Reading for gist or skimming.** e.g. to get a general idea of what it is about.
* **Reading for detail.** e.g. If you read a letter from some one you love, getting the meaning of every word.
* **Extensive reading.** e.g. story or an article, you read some parts of the text in detail while you may skim through.
* **Intensive reading.** e.g. to make learners more aware of how language is used in Grammar or Mathematics.

**PART.I. Read the text as given above subskills and speak or write in short note:**-

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| **The Earth in danger** |
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| In 2012, some people believed the world would end according to an ancient Mayan prediction. Thankfully, nothing happened. However, we must realize that the Earth is, in fact, in danger. This danger is not from asteroids or **rogue planets**, but from our actions and how they affect the environment. There are three main threats to Earth and they are global warming, loss of biodiversity, water and air pollution.  Global warming is caused by the release of greenhouse gases such as methane and carbon dioxide into the air when coal and oil are burnt. These gases trap heat from the sun in the earth's atmosphere, causing temperatures to rise around the world and changing climate patterns. In recent years, global warming has worsened. Many parts of the world have experienced unusual and extreme weather resulting in drought, floods and dangerous hurricanes.  Another problem Earth faces is the **extinction** of plants and animals. In the past century, over 10,000 plant and animal species have died out, and about 25 percent of all remaining species is already in danger of disappearing. This can cause ecosystems to collapse. As part of the ecosystem, we humans would be severely affected as well. For example, the extinction of certain species of wild corn has created a loss of genetic diversity, making corn grown in farms especially vulnerable to diseases and pests, affecting our food supply. Because of this, it is important that we recognize the danger of the extinction of plants and animals.  Yet another danger that we face is pollution of air and water. Everyone knows the importance of having clean water to drink and clean air to breathe. However, many cities around the globe are facing problems with dirty air. For example, in Beijing, China, air pollution grew to such **hazardous** levels at one point that it was unsafe for people to go outdoors. As for water, many people assume that there is plenty of water around, more than enough to replace the polluted water. However, few realize that only 3 percent of the Earth's water is actually usable without extensive processing. Thus, any water pollution at all is dangerous, and can have a tremendously negative impact on our water supply.  To conclude, Earth is under serious threat from environmental damage. It is our responsibility to take action to protect the environment. Otherwise, the destruction of Earth is certain. |

**Part .II,**

**Read the below conversation and fill the words from the box according to the number. After the completion of the text check with the answer:-**

**The following is an incomplete dialogue between a man and his wife describing an accident:**



W: What \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ [1] to your car, Davy? How did the window glass break?

M: Well, it’s a long story.

W: But you don’t \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ [2] to be upset about it.

M: Nor will you be if you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_[3] to what really happened.

W: Then I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_[4] listen to this.

M: I had just \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_[5] the Dolby Centre and was driving into the car park. All that I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_[6] see

was cars parked on either side. The car park looked desolate. Suddenly, out of the blue, I hear a bang. I

came to a halt. I turned to see that the back seat of the car was full of splinters. The window had a large

gaping hole. I stepped out.

W: And then?

M: I was fuming. I\_\_\_\_\_\_\_[7] back few steps to find out who is the culprit was. And do you know what I saw?

W: What?

M: A little prankster. Mm….just \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_[8] six years old.

W: Don’t you give him a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_[9] whack?

M: This little\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_[10] was standing on the kerb behind the cars. He looked \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_[11] though.

But I could see no sign of regret on his face.

W: What was he \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_[12] to?

M: All that I could I see was that he was pointing to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_[13] on the other side. I walked up to him and

instinctively asked, “Why the hell did you throw the stone at my car?” As I \_\_\_\_\_\_[14] him, I looked in the

direction to which he was pointing. I literally swallowed my words.

W: What was there?

M: His little sister, a polio victim, was lying on the ground. Her wheelchair has turned turtle and was lying a

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ [15] feet away from her.

W: And what did you do?

M: I \_\_\_\_\_\_[16] and set the chair upright and lifted the girl and helped her back in to the chair. The boy didn’t

Know whether to smile or cry.

W: Poor thing!

M: And then he gathered himself and said “ I’m \_\_\_\_\_[17] sorry. Nobody would stop and help. So I had to do

it” Part .I, Listening the Audio and fill the blanks.

He left me speechless.

W: Indeed. I agree we must take time to listen.

**Use this words and fill the blanks:-**

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|  | happened | matter | problem | wrong | 10. | person | man | guy | Boy |
|  | look | seem | like | as | 11. | worried | troubled | upset | confused |
|  | understand | listen | hear | find | 12. | points | up | note | indicates |
|  | should | would | could | must | 13. | some | few | many | something |
|  | reach | had reached | Have reached | reached | 14. | pointed | questioned | show | mention |
|  | can | could | may | might | 15. | little | few | a few | many |
|  | walk | walked | is walking | was walking | 16. | ran | go | went | gone |
|  | nearly | about | for | Since | 17. | really | terribly | once | anyhow |
|  | good | well | enough | nice |  |  |  |  |  |

**Answer :-**

**The following is an incomplete dialogue between a man and his wife describing an accident:**



W: What \_happened [1] to your car, Davy? How did the window glass break?

M: Well, it’s a long story.

W: But you don’t \_seem [2] to be upset about it.

M: Nor will you be if you listen[3] to what really happened.

W: Then I must [4] listen to this.

M: I had just reached[5] the Dolby Centre and was driving into the car park. All that I could[6] see

was cars parked on either side. The car park looked desolate. Suddenly, out of the blue, I hear a bang. I

came to a halt. I turned to see that the back seat of the car was full of splinters. The window had a large

gaping hole. I stepped out.

W: And then?

M: I was fuming. I walked [7] back few steps to find out who is the culprit was. And do you know what I saw?

W: What?

M: A little prankster. Mm….just about [8] six years old.

W: Don’t you give him a nice [9] whack?

M: This little guy [10] was standing on the kerb behind the cars. He looked upset\_[11] though.

But I could see no sign of regret on his face.

W: What was he up [12] to?

M: All that I could I see was that he was pointing to something[13] on the other side. I walked up to him and

instinctively asked, “Why the hell did you throw the stone at my car?” As I questioned [14] him, I looked in

the direction to which he was pointing. I literally swallowed my words.

W: What was there?

M: His little sister, a polio victim, was lying on the ground. Her wheelchair has turned turtle and was lying a

few [15] feet away from her.

W: And what did you do?

M: I ran [16] and set the chair upright and lifted the girl and helped her back in to the chair. The boy didn’t

Know whether to smile or cry.

W: Poor thing!

M: And then he gathered himself and said “ I’m terribly [17] sorry. Nobody would stop and help. So I had to do

it” Part .I, Listening the Audio and fill the blanks. He left me speechless.

W: Indeed. I agree we must take time to listen.

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**III.To kill two birds with one stone** :

**To kill two birds with one stone** is an English phrase that means to achieve two goals with one action.

When a terrorist group kidnapped 19-year-old [Patty Hearst](https://www.fbi.gov/about-us/history/famous-cases/patty-hearst-kidnapping), they knew they were killing two birds with one stone. The group was called the SLA and they chose to kidnap Patty Hearst because she was the granddaughter of a very rich media **mogul**. With Patty they could do two things: **stir up** media attention and demand a lot of money.

For weeks, they kept Patty in a closet and threatened her life. Patty’s family was **desperate** to find her but they could hardly believe their eyes when they finally **caught a glimpse** of her.

Two months after her kidnapping, the nightly news showed a **gun-toting** Patty enthusiastically robbing a bank. To make matters worse, just a few days earlier, the SLA released a video showing Patty saying that she’d joined the side of the SLA. She’d even taken a new name: Tania.

Could this be the same scared girl who was taken **against her will** just a few months before? Or had the **tables** really **turned**?

Just days after the bank robbery, the United States **Attorney General** said that Patty had turned into a common criminal. He believed she was no longer a victim. Police began a search for Patty, not to save her, but to arrest her.

They eventually caught her two years later. While being taken to jail, she yelled, “Tell everybody that I’m smiling, that I feel free and strong…” She even listed her occupation as urban **guerilla**.

But once the trial started, Patty claimed she’d been **brainwashed**. **Jurors** weren’t convinced and found Patty guilty. How could Patty have decided to join the very people who abused her?

According to psychologists, Patty suffered from [Stockholm Syndrome](http://counsellingresource.com/lib/therapy/self-help/stockholm/). Stockholm Syndrome happens when hostages who are completely dependent on their abusers for survival begin to have positive feelings for them. They often feel **sympathy** and **loyalty** towards them.

Patty’s not the only one to have suffered such a **fate**. Stockholm Syndrome was named after [bank employees](http://www.history.com/news/stockholm-syndrome) in Stockholm who were held captive by criminals in 1973. After just five days, the bank hostages refused help from police, and instead defended their **captors**.

What do you think? Can you imagine supporting someone who abused you?

**Vocabulary.**

**mogul**

a rich and powerful person in a specific field

**Improve your word power [ New]:- interstitial \in-ter-STISH-uh l\ -adjective**

1. Pertaining to, situated in, or forming small or narrow space or intervals between things or part.
2. *Anatomy.* Situated between the cells of astructure or part *: interstitial tissue.*

**Thanks for Today**

**IruthayaRaj.S. Trainer.**

**stir up**

create or cause

**desperate**

in great need, stressed out

**catch a glimpse**

to view, if only for a short amount of time

**gun-toting**

carrying a gun

**against her will**

without her permission or consent

**tables turned**

when a situation reverses or completely changes

**Attorney General**

the head of the justice department in the U.S.

**guerilla**

someone who is a part of a small rebel group

**brainwash**

change someone’s beliefs through stress and manipulation

**jurors**

in a courtroom, the people who decide if someone is guilty or innocent

**sympathy**

feelings of understanding or pity for someone

**loyalty**

unwavering support no matter the circumstances

**fate**

destiny

**captors**

people who’ve taken someone against their will and won’t release them