

What is Extensive Reading?

- Extensive reading is learning English by reading a lot of easy books.
- Students choose what they read and when they read.
- Students should read for fun. If you don't like a book, stop reading and choose another.

Why do Extensive Reading?

- **It will help you get better at reading.** The more you practice reading, the better you will become. A lot of college homework is reading. Learning how to read for meaning instead of a word for word translation will let you read faster, which means less time spent on homework.
- **It will improve your vocabulary.** Seeing words again and again while reading will help you recognize them, without using flashcards or a dictionary.
- **It will help improve your writing.** Reading well written books and articles will help you learn how sentences are supposed to be written in English.

Where do you find books to read?

The Thompson Library has a special extensive reading collection for English Language Program students.

- The collection has its own library website: <https://libguides.umflint.edu/extensive-reading>
- You can search the collection online by using the Library Catalog.
- It is on the third floor of the library.
- You can check out a book for three weeks.
- You need your M-Card to check out books.

What kind of books does the library have?

- **Fiction:** stories that are not true
- **Non-fiction:** stories that are true
- **Graphic Novel:** a story told with a series of pictures and characters speaking through word bubbles, can be fiction or non-fiction
- **Biography:** the true story of a person's life
- **Graded readers:** stories that have been written specifically for English language learners
- **Read-along:** a book that comes with a CD of a person reading the book; you can read and then listen, listen and then read, or read and listen at the same time
- **Short stories:** a book may have more than one story in it, these are short usually under 10 pages long
- **Bilingual books:** one page has the story written in English and the opposite page has the same story written in another language. Try covering the non-English pages up and only reading the story in English, but if it is too difficult, you can check the non-English page.

Rules of Extensive Reading*

1. **Read for fun.** Read a book because you like it and it is interesting. If you do not like the book, stop reading it and choose another one.
2. **You choose what to read.** Your teacher tells you to read but not which books. You pick.
3. **Read books and other material that are easy to read.** The extensive reading collection is divided into three levels.

Blue Level is for Reading and Writing 5 and 6 classes.

B books should be easy. **A** books are more difficult. **X** books are challenge books.

Use the Five Finger Rule to help you choose books.



4. **Read a variety of material, both in format and genre.** Read fiction and nonfiction books. Read novels and graphic novels. Read mystery stories, romance stories, and adventure stories. Read magazine and newspaper articles.
5. **Read as much as possible.** Try to read at least one book a week. Many of the books are short.
6. **Read faster, without looking at a dictionary.** Stopping to look up every word you don't know takes time. To become a better reader, try to guess what an unknown word means from the surrounding sentences. If you can't figure it out, that's okay too. Ignore it or write it down and look it up later.
7. **Read to understand of the text.** You don't have to learn every word in the book or article.
8. **Read on your own.** Your teacher may let you read in class, but also read at home or when you have free time.

*Rules adapted from Day and Bamford's "Top Ten Principles for Teaching Extensive Reading," <http://nflrc.hawaii.edu/rfi/October2002/day/day.html>