Extensive Reading

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 your practice reading, the better you will become. A lot of college homework is reading. Learning how to read for meaning instead of word for word 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 books 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 on the website by typing “ELP 2” into the search box.
- 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 just 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 listen and read at the same time
- Short stories: a book that has more than one story in it; the stories are usually under 10 pages long
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 book.

2. **You choose what to read.** Your teacher tells you to read but not which books. You pick.

3. **Read books that are easy to read.** The extensive reading collection is divided into three levels.

   - **Yellow Level** is for Reading and Writing 3 and 4 classes.
   - **E** books are easy. **D** books are medium. **C** books are hard.

   Use the Five Finger Rule to help you choose books.

4. **Read different types of books.** Read fiction and nonfiction books. Read mystery stories and romance stories and adventure stories. Read about people and science and history.

5. **Read many books.** Try to read at least one book a week. Many of the books are short.

6. **Read faster. Try not to look at a dictionary.** Stopping to look up every unknown word takes time. To become a better reader, try to guess what a new word means from the sentences around it. If you cannot figure it out, that is okay too. Ignore it or write it down to look up later.

7. **Read to understand the story.** You do not have to learn every word in the book.

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/rfl/October2002/day/day.html](http://nflrc.hawaii.edu/rfl/October2002/day/day.html)