

Some aspects of individual reading teaching

During years of learning the English language students are accustomed to careful reading and regular usage of dictionaries. To become more autonomous in acquiring reading habits the so-called individual reading is introduced in the curriculum. The primary goal of individual reading is to achieve a general understanding of reading material. There are several reasons why this type of work is rather useful for students.

Teachers should help their students get the most out of individual reading: provide essential guidance, monitor them periodically throughout the semester.

Individual reading materials can be any material in English that is easy for students to read with overall comprehension. Starting this type of work students should know that as the result of it they will read faster and understand more. The first step for students is to select material at the appropriate language level. It is important the material to be interesting for them to read. They should simply read for general understanding and follow the general storyline. The aim of individual reading is to read books and not to struggle over every detail. Students can ignore words they do not know and still maintain a general understanding of the passage. Sometimes they can guess the meaning of words from the context and avoid using dictionaries. Stopping several times per page to look up words in the dictionary is time-consuming and what is more important it distracts students from reading for general understanding. One should use dictionaries only in the cases when not knowing the meaning of a word prevents overall understanding. To assist students, teachers should be familiar with the level of texts they are reading and the extent to which they are able to achieve general understanding. Teachers monitor their students' comprehension by incorporating individual reading activities in the classroom. Keeping a diary of their individual reading is necessary for better teachers' monitoring of this process and at the same time it will allow students to see their progress and be very motivating. Thus, teachers can help students to become fluent readers by engaging them in individual reading.