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Non-fictional Prose
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Lecture 1

Reading Skills and Strategies



Reading Skills and Strategies

- OARWET

O: Overview

A: Ask

R: Read

W: Write

E: Evaluate

T: Test and get an “A”



Reading Skills and Strategies

- OARWET
- R: Read
 - Reading without knowing every word.
 - Guessing the meaning from context.
 - several strategies (using morphology, part of speech..etc)
 - Understanding/ inferencing the main idea



Reading Skills and Strategies

Go to the book

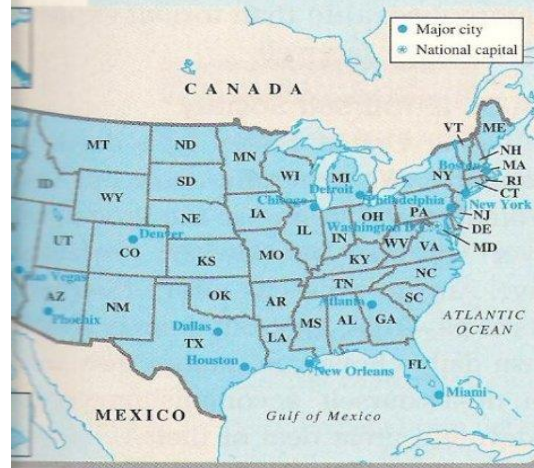
ADD PAGES 1-8 FROM THE BOOK



First Impressions

Size

A It is difficult to really experience or “feel” the size of the United States. To get the full impact you should realize, for example, that it takes 48 hours (two entire days and two long nights) to travel by train from Chicago to Los Angeles, rolling along hour after hour across wheat fields, mountains, and deserts.



B Another way to think about it is to compare distances in the United States with others more familiar to you. For example, New York to Washington, D.C. is about the same as London to Paris or Nairobi to Mombasa or Tokyo to Kyoto; New York to Los Angeles is farther than Lisbon to Cairo or Moscow to Montreal or New Delhi to Rome.

Climate

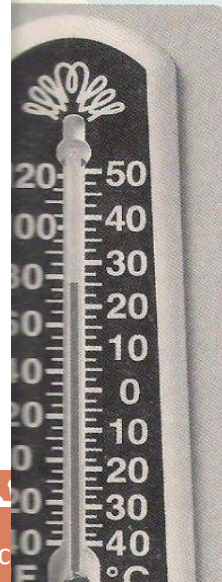
C Naturally, with such distances, the climate in the **continental** United States is also one of great extremes. From New England and New York through Chicago and much of the Midwest and Northwest, temperatures vary from subzero in winter to the high 90s (Fahrenheit) or over in summer.

D The South and Southwest have warmer weather, though even these sections have **occasional** frosts and periods of moderate cold. Generally, summers are likely to range from 70° F to 100° F (21° C to 38° C), and many areas can be quite humid. However, air conditioning is so widespread that you can expect most office buildings and homes to be kept at relatively **comfortable** temperatures.

Americans in Motion

E Americans are **restless**. Most travel whenever they get the chance. They crowd onto trains, buses, and planes. In increasing numbers, they hike with packs on their backs or ride bicycles, heading for the mountains, seashore, or national parks.

the U.S.



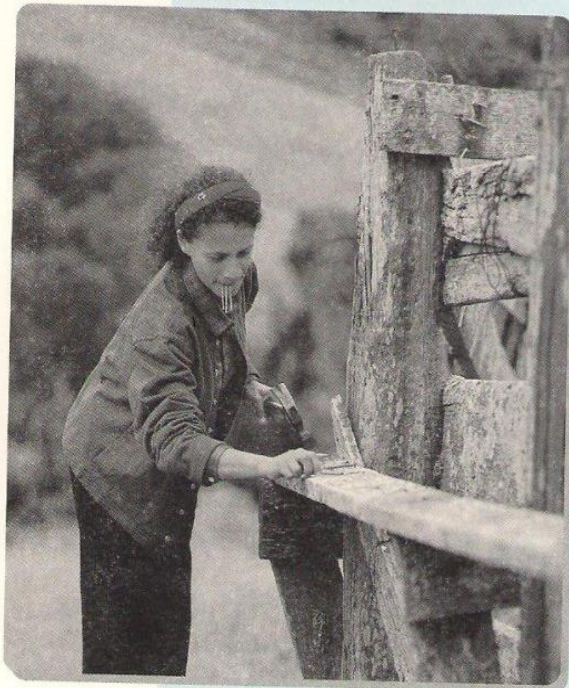


▲ Biking is a popular sport in the U.S.

F Don't think that Americans are being rude if we tend to speak in monosyllables or answer with a mere "O.K.," "Sure," or "Nope" or greet you with "Hi." Our **brevisity** is not a **personal** insult, though to those accustomed to formal phrases, we seem **blunt**. American **informality** has become more **desirable** than formal expressions of greeting or farewell.

A Do-It-Yourself Society

G The United States is a **do-it-yourself** country. We generally carry our own bags, take our laundry to the laundromat, stand in line at the grocery store, or shine our own shoes, whoever we may be—lawyer, professor, bank president, or corporate executive. Anyone who can afford the high cost of service in this country and wants to pay for it, may. But there is absolutely no social **stigma** in doing one's own daily **chores**, no matter how **menial**. In fact, Americans take pride in do-it-yourself accomplishments and may devote a great deal of their **leisure** time to projects around the home. Huge warehouse stores that cater to do-it-yourself tasks have been built throughout the country.



▲ Americans take pride in do-it-yourself projects.

H Many Americans who could afford **household** help or a **driver** or a **gardener** do not employ them. They prefer family privacy, independence, and freedom from **responsibility**, all of which are at least partially lost when one has help in one's home.

I Houses interest Americans greatly. They spend much of their time thinking and reading and talking about the design of houses, their decorations, how to improve them. Many weekend hours are passed in do-it-yourself projects around the house. People also love to look at each other's houses. Since they would **thoroughly** enjoy visiting and expressing their admiration for

heritage. As a result, no one needs to feel awkward or uncomfortable in following his or her own customs. Although Americans are noticeably informal, if you prefer somewhat greater **formality**, feel free to act in your own way. This will be acceptable to those around you.

Source: "First Impressions" *Living in the USA* (Alison R. Lanier and Charles William Gay)

After You Read

2 Recalling Information Mark each of these sentences with a *T* (for true) or *F* (for false). Correct the false statements to make them true. Remember to read the article (or parts of it) again if you have trouble with it. If you can do this activity, you have read well enough for your present purpose.

1. T The United States has a varied geography, including fields, mountains, and deserts.
2. F Its continental climate is basically moderate.
3. F Its people are not very active and spend most of their time reading books.
4. F They are rude and like to insult others with simple direct words.
5. T Americans are very interested in their homes and love to show them off, even to people they don't know very well.
6. T Americans spend a lot of time thinking and talking about projects to fix up their homes.
7. F They send their servants to huge warehouse stores to buy decorations for their houses.
8. T Americans come from many different nationalities.
9. F They generally prefer formality and do not like people to be informal.

Strategy

Analyzing Paragraphs for the Main Idea and its Development

An important skill for reading is finding the main idea, which is often stated directly. In most cases, a sentence or two states the main idea. This sentence is usually (but not always) the first sentence of the paragraph. The other sentences develop the paragraph in these ways:



- reading:
- The first three sections develop the main idea in the same way. Which way is that? Choose 1, 2, or 3 in the Strategy Box on page 7.
 - The fourth section also does it that same way, but finishes up with one other way in the last sentence. Which way does it finish up? Choose 1, 2, or 3 in the Strategy Box on page 7.
 - What punctuation mark indicates an emotional reaction? Look through the rest of the article and find the section that uses method 3 (expressing an emotional reaction) to finish up. What are the first four words of that paragraph?

Strategy

Understanding the Meaning of Words from Context

The *context* of something is its surroundings or situation. The context of a word is what goes before it and after it. You can often guess the meaning of a new word by reading past it to the next sentence. If the meaning is still unclear, read the sentence before the word. If necessary, read the whole paragraph. Then go back and try to understand the word again.

4 Understanding the Meaning of Words from Context Choose the best definition for each word below. If you don't remember the context, go back to the reading and look for the words in bold (darker type).

- blunt*
- stigma*
- leisure*
- chores*
- menial*
- thoroughly*
- assume*
- refusing*
- heritage*

a. loud and rude

b. short and direct

c. personal and formal

a. new rule

b. good word

c. negative mark

a. not working

b. work

c. family

a. tasks

b. accounts

c. pastimes

a. difficult

b. attractive

c. low

a. somewhat

b. completely

c. possibly

a. doubt

b. believe

c. fear

a. saying yes

b. saying no

c. not saying anything

a. history and tradition

b. physical

c. economics and class





مَشْرِفَةٌ
بِحَمْدِ اللَّهِ

