



**TECHNOLOGY  
FOR  
LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION**



# HOW TO READ AN ACADEMIC ARTICLE

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# Reading primary lit

## 1 SKIM



First get the “big picture” by reading the title, key words and abstract carefully; this will tell you the major findings and why they matter.

- Quickly scan the article without taking notes; focus on headings and subheadings.
- Note the publishing date; for many areas, current research is more relevant.
- Note any terms and parts you don't understand for further reading.

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## RE-READ ②

Read the article again, asking yourself questions such as:

- What problem is the study trying to solve?
- Are the findings well supported by evidence?
- Are the findings unique and supported by other work in the field?
- What was the sample size? Is it representative of the larger population?
- Is the study repeatable?
- What factors might affect the results?



**Do I understand the question they're asking?**

**What did they ask people to do?**

If you are unfamiliar with key concepts, look for them in the literature.

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## 3 INTERPRET



- Examine graphs and tables carefully.
  - Try to interpret data first before looking at captions.
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- When reading the discussion and results, look for key issues and new findings.
  - Make sure you have distinguished the main points. If not, go over the text again.

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## SUMMARIZE

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- Take notes; it improves reading comprehension and helps you remember key points.
- If you have a printed version, highlight key points and write on the article. If it's on screen, make use of markers and comments.

