

Thirty-five reading tasks

When would you do the task? Before, while or after the reading? Write B, W, or A next to the task description.

1. Predict the content from the headline/picture/ key words and then read to confirm
2. Separate fact from opinion
3. Answer comprehension questions about it
4. Create a title / sub-headings
5. Put the paragraphs in order
6. Create a jigsaw activity
7. Paper-strip gap activity
8. Cut the text in pieces and read in pairs/groups of three.
9. Write out / categorise unknown words
10. Write topic sentences of a paragraph
11. Add some impossible words / mistakes into the text
12. Write out all the numbers in the text and then try to tell what they mean
13. Summarize it
14. Learners create discussion / comprehension questions
15. Learners create questions to the writer
16. Learners create questions to people mentioned in the article
17. Expand it – learners tell the teacher/class what they know about topic beyond what is in text
18. Discuss it – predicting what is going to happen
19. Role play – a meeting / a press conference / an event described in the story
20. Research the topic – find another article on the same topic
21. Compare and contrast it with another text on the same topic
22. Prepare a presentation based on it
23. Write a letter to the editor
24. Convert the information into a table or diagram
25. Reconstruct it – read it and then be given a gapped version of it
26. Reconstruct it – read it and then be given a de-grammaticalised version of it
27. Extract useful lexical phrases
28. Read it aloud
29. Translate it / parts of it – translate it back
30. Do a dictocomp activity
31. Re-enact a dialogue from the text
32. Choose synonyms for vocabulary in the text
33. Create an ending for a text
34. Underline examples of particular grammatical forms
35. Scan the text for specific facts