

LEARNING ACTIVITY GUIDE

Readings

You should read more in the target language as you progress through your studies. This guide will apply to story books in the language, Bible selections, newspapers or other written sources. With graded school series, you will be able to begin at a basic level and systematically increase your level of comprehension and breadth of vocabulary.

Goals: Basic comprehension of the original piece.

Discussion in the target language of the ideas of the original selection you read.

Growing awareness of the usage, style and grammar of your target language.

Broadening of vocabulary on various topics.

Improving reading skills and comprehension.

Format:

1. Read silently over the whole selection. Read briskly to grasp the general flow of the **whole piece (a story, chapter, page)**.

a. Do not stop for new words, but you may mark some key words to check on later.

b. **Do not translate** at this stage. Read for general comprehension in the language written.

2. Go back portion by portion (by sentence or paragraph), still reading silently in the language.

3. Read the same portion aloud in the language, reading for flow, emphasis by phrase, and comprehension.

4. Pick out key words/grammar usage that seem new to you.

a. Try to figure out their meaning from the context.

b. Make notes in the margin or on a vocabulary sheet.

c. Note related words/forms in the language.

d. Give a reference word or usage in English.

(Note: Up to this point you have **not used** a dictionary or tried to go into English.)

5. **Now** look up key words you have not figured out. Do not write any English phrases until you have figured out the general meaning that can be expressed in sensible English for the whole portion.

6. Try to write out in English roughly what the source portion (sentence) was saying.

- a. Put the **basic idea** in **good**, but **simple English**.
- b. Do not think in terms of words, but phrases and ideas.

7. Review your original to see if there is a key word or phrase you have missed, and to be sure you have the idea stated with the same actor or **object**.

8. Proceed to the next portion, following steps 3 through 7, to end of the selection.

9. Read back over your whole English translation, making sure it is in acceptable English. Your translation should sound like normal English while reflecting the general style and meaning of the original. If you now translate your English back into the source language, it should give the same general form you had originally.