

Step – Reading in a lesson or for homework

Task

Below are six outlines of different reading lessons. Click on the link to view the text.

For each plan, decide whether or not it's better for the learner(s) to read the text in the lesson or for homework, and why.

Think about:

- the age of the learner
- whether or not the learner will need support
- how much reading needs to be done
- how lesson time is best spent.

Reading lesson 1: Reading sub-skill focus: Understanding [cohesion](#) in a text.

Learner	Text	Task
A class of six B2-level adult learners preparing for their B2 First exam.	A paragraph from a longer article about ballet. View the document	Identify examples of referencing words in the paragraph and what they refer to. Identify examples of substitution in the paragraph and what is being substituted.

Answer

It's best if learners do the reading task in the lesson. The aim is to help learners identify and understand referencing/substitution in a text so it requires input and support from the teacher. It's also a short text so reading time will be short. Learners could read the whole text for homework.

Reading lesson 2: Reading sub-skill focus: Understanding detailed information in a text.

Learner	Text	Task
One B1-level teenage learner aged 15.	An article about a summer camp. View the document	Answer a set of short-answer questions and then select the best summary of the article.

Answer

It's best if the learner does the reading task at home. The learner is at an age and level where they can read independently. The text is fairly long for the level and the focus is on reading for detail, which means the learner has to read more in depth, which will take longer. The lesson time can be better used on speaking practice, for example, or discussing parts of the text or task that the learner found more difficult.

Reading lesson 3: Reading sub-skill focus: Understanding simple sentences and the grammar/vocabulary within them.

Learner	Text	Task
One pre-A1-level young learner aged 7.	A set of true/false statements about a picture. View the document	Decide if sentences are true or false.

Answer

It's best if the learner does the reading task in the lesson. Young learners need support while they read with language they can't read yet or don't understand.

Reading lesson 4: Reading sub-skill focus: Understanding different types of questions and their appropriate responses.

Learner	Text	Task
A class of young learners aged 9.	A set of questions and answers. View the document	Match each question with its answer.

Answer

It's probably best if the learners do this task in the lesson so that the teacher is there to support them. Having said that, the learners are aged 9 and at an A2 level of English. It's possible that they could manage this task at home, if it's a task type they've completed previously and know how to do.

Reading lesson 5: Reading sub-skill focus: Identifying a writer's opinions.

Learner	Text	Task
A class of four B2+ level adult learners.	Two different reviews of a film that has just been released. [View Review A] [View Review B]	A jigsaw reading task, i.e. each student reads one article and identifies what the writer sees as the film's strengths and weaknesses. Each student then works with a student who has read the other article and they share their information, comparing answers.

Answer

It's best if the reading part of the lesson is done at home, as the reviews are quite long and learners need to read them in detail. The learners could share what they learned with a partner at home via a digital tool (more on those in week 3 of the course) and present their findings in their next lesson. Alternatively, they could use part of the next lesson to share ideas and present their findings.

Reading lesson 6: Reading sub-skill focus: Recognising adverbs of attitude to understand a writer's viewpoint.

Learner	Text	Task
One B1-level adult Business English learner.	A short text about the mobile phone industry. View the document	Identify two adverbs of attitude (i.e. admittedly / undoubtedly) and work out their meaning.

Answer

It's probably best if the reading task is done in the lesson. The text is short and the focus requires the teacher to provide input and support as the learner works out the meaning of the adverbs of attitude. The learner could, of course, be given another article with other adverbs of attitude in them to read for homework, providing further practice of the sub-skill.

Of course, motivation also plays a part in deciding whether to ask a learner to read in or out of the lesson. If a learner is unmotivated to read outside the lesson, then it's likely that you'll need to ask them to read in the lesson, even if the text is fairly long.