

Parent Guide



@twinklparents

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What is this resource and how do I use it?

As well as using phonics to read, your child will also develop comprehension skills to understand a text. These skills are split into five areas: retrieval, prediction, sequencing, inference and vocabulary. Use this guide to find out about each area and use the questions when reading with your child to develop their comprehension.

What is the focus of this resource?

Empowering Parents

Knowledge of Reading
Comprehension Skills

Further Ideas and Suggestions

Head over to [this category](#) for some great reading comprehensions. Your child might like to read and answer questions about [bees in the UK](#) or [ecosystems](#). They could test their comprehension with our [Lunar New Year](#) and [Remembrance Day](#) texts, which include a crossword related to what they've read.

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Reading



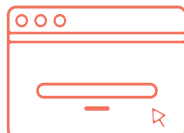
Comprehension Skills

Explained for Parents

If you have a child in key stage one, they will be learning how to read during their phonics lessons at school. Learning to read words is a vital skill. Actually understanding what they have read and being able to talk about it is another skill your child will be working on.

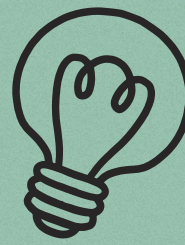
During English lessons, your child's teacher will show your child how to read a text and use it to answer questions to show their understanding. Your child will get lots of opportunities to develop these skills in small groups or as part of a class discussion. You can also ask questions to support your child at home to develop their comprehension skills.

When you are reading at home with your child, as well as listening to their accuracy when reading, you can develop their comprehension by talking about what they have read. Your child will be used to talking about what they have read from their lessons at school. Sometimes, it can be hard to know what to ask, so we've included some questions that develop each skill.




All reading is beneficial, even if it's reading a comic book or a website. Your child will learn lots about how texts work by reading a range of genres, from fantasy stories and science fiction to adventures and traditional tales. Don't forget that they will also need to read other text types, such as recipes, explanations, diaries, comics, websites, reports and many others. Each text type will have something different to offer your child. Even jokes can be read and enjoyed - you could ask your child how the joke works to develop their understanding. Most of all, make reading fun and special. Don't use it as a punishment. Enjoy poems together, get busy in the kitchen reading a recipe or brush off your drama skills and role play an event in a story.

What **comprehension skills** will my child be developing?



Retrieval

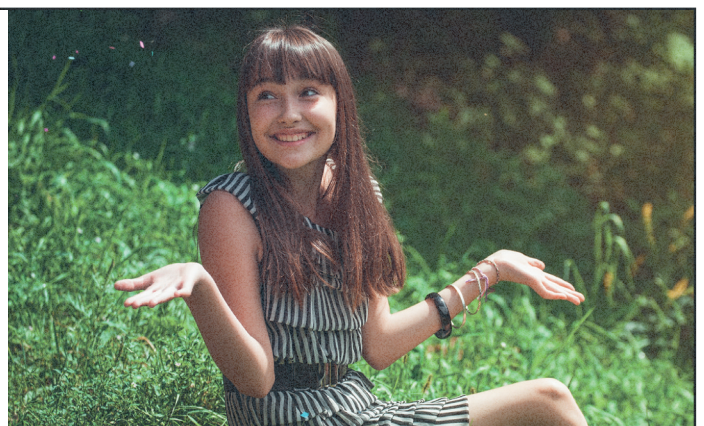
Retrieval is the skill of identifying and explaining key points in a text. Your child might be asked to retrieve facts and information in different ways. This might be by adding information to a table, identifying which facts are true or false or finding and copying information. The answer to a retrieval question will always be in the text, so it's a good idea to get your child looking back to find the relevant place to search.

Example questions for retrieval you could ask your child are: 

- → Where/when is the story set?
- → Who is telling the story?
- → How many _____ were in the story?
- → What did (character) do after _____?
- → Who is the main character?
- → What did _____ say when _____?
- → What funny/scary/shocking thing happened in the story?
- → How did (character) _____?
- → Explain what happened at the end.
- → What two things did (character) do before _____?
- → Who helped (character)?
- → Is (fact about the text) true or false?
- → What date did _____?
- → How many _____?
- → What problem did (character) have?

Prediction

This skill is based on your child being able to make sensible predictions based upon what they have already read and on their knowledge of a particular type of text. They might be asked to explain what features they are likely to find in this type of text or what they think might happen after an event.



Example questions for prediction you could ask your child are: →



- Who do you think will save the day?
- How do you think the story will end?
- Do you think it will end happily?
- What might (character) do now?
- What do you think this page will be about?
- How might the problem be resolved?
- What things could happen to help (character)?
- Predict what might happen if _____?
- Which of these is most likely to happen?
- What problem might (character) come across next?

Sequencing


Sequencing is about putting events in order in a text. Your child might be asked to sequence a set of events or they might be asked what happened before or after something else. They might be asked to match an event to a time or day that it happened from the text.

Example questions for sequencing you could ask your child are: →

- Can you number the events in the order they happened?
- What happened after _____?
- When did (character) do (action)?
- What is the final step of the instructions?
- What did (character) do before (event)?
- How does the story start?
- Can you retell the story in two sentences?
- Draw a picture to show what happened at the beginning/middle/end of the story.
- Does this text have to be read in order? Why/why not?

Inference


Inference is the skill of being able to draw conclusions about something from what you have read in the text. It's a bit like reading between the lines of what an author writes and looking for clues about characters or events. For example, you might be able to tell how a character is feeling without the author actually saying how they feel - you'll be able to tell from the character's actions or gestures.

Example questions for inference you could ask your child are: 

- → How did (character) feel at this point? How do you know?
- → Was (character) happy about (event)? What part tells you this?
- → Why did (character) do (action)?
- → Why do you think _____?
- → How can you tell _____?
- → Find and copy two phrases the author uses to show that a character is happy/angry/sad.
- → Why did the author use (word) to describe (character/action)?
- → How has the author made us feel about _____?
- → How did _____ make you feel? Why?

Vocabulary

As your child reads more and more complex texts, they will be exposed to a greater range of vocabulary. It's important that your child understands what this new vocabulary means. Your child will also start to think more carefully about why an author chose a particular word and what effect it has. Questions might ask your child to find and copy a word which means the same as another word, match words to their meanings or explain the meaning of a word.

Example questions for vocabulary you could ask your child are: 

- → Can you find a word in the text that means _____?
- → What word does the author use to describe _____?
- → Why is this word effective?
- → Why has _____ been repeated in the poem?
- → Write down two adjectives the author uses to describe a setting.
- → Find and copy two words to show _____.
- → What does the author mean when they write _____?
- → Find an adverb to describe how (character) did (action).
- → What does (word or phrase) mean?

We hope you find the information on our website and resources useful. As far as possible, the contents of this resource are reflective of current professional research. However, please be aware that every child is different and information can quickly become out of date. The information given here is intended for general guidance purposes only and may not apply to your specific situation.



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