

INCULCATING THE HABIT OF READING - A CHALLENGE FOR THE ENGLISH TEACHER

Dr Vibha Gupta *
Dr Sunita Chaudhary **

Abstract

With the steep increase in competition each passing day, the importance of English has gained huge prominence. Today students especially from professional stream are required to possess communication and language skills in order to succeed. Most students have many career options after graduation- to work, pursue MS in foreign universities or go for an MBA. All these options demand a high level of communication of the students for the selection process. Exam like the GRE and TOEFL test the candidate on the basic skills reading, speaking, listening and writing apart from vocabulary and grammar. How does the English teacher help the students develop four basic skills? In fact the biggest challenge for the teacher is to inculcate in the student the habit of reading. My article deals with the problems imparting reading habits to students at college level.

Introduction

“The habit of reading is the only enjoyment in which there is no alloy: it lasts when all other pleasures fade.” English has become one of the most typical subjects to teach in the Indian situation today. Although English is the official second language of our country, the classroom is the only place where the language is taught and learnt. This being the situation it is not surprising that students show indifference to learning the language skills that improve their communication.

Apart from providing immense pleasure Reading helps us to gain knowledge things happening around us. In fact reading shapes our thoughts and enables us to think better. Reading gives us an edge over others in both professional social circles. There is a reason to emphasize reading skills: READER WRITE BETTER.

This paper attempts to identify causes of lacking reading among students.

Is it Important for a Student to Read?

In order to accomplish these objectives the student is required to read material like text books, journals and so on. If the student is an efficient and effective reader

* Assistant Professor, Mahabir College of Education, Kurukshetra University, Haryana.

** Assistant Professor, Govt. College Barwala Panchkula.

he will be able to cover more volume that ensures that more information is at his disposal. This knowledge when coupled with logical skills will make him a better engineer. To face examination students are required to retain and recreate what they read. Reading indirectly contributes to academic success.

Measure to Improve Reading

In view of the growing importance of reading, my colleges I have taken measure to make reading a more enjoyable action. The measures and their profits are discussed below.

To book a Library

Reading for a wholesome personality is something that all students must be motivated towards. Reading and knowledge so acquired can develop in to a very strong foundation for the growth of an individual. The library contains all kind of books – essay reading books, comics, novels, motivational and self help books.

A teacher should encourage students to communicate in the class. The communication of students to improve only when he listens to his own voice while speaking. Even reading a lesson in the class should be done by the students and not by the teacher. To begin with, the teacher should make the whole class reading silently.

Describing pictures and improving the reading skills through role play

If day one is dedicated to silent / loud reading and vocabulary games, day two can be dedicated to role play and motivating students to speak and write. A good reader proves to be a good speaker later on. A starter should always start reading good books, interesting topics and should think over it. Whatever the ideas come in to his mind he should write on a piece of paper and read again and again.

Role of Model United Nation

The role of any model United Nations is to make the participants more aware of the political and economic happenings at the political and economic happenings at international level and their impact on various countries. In an MNU there is a secretariat, administration and committees such as security council, peace and disarmament committee and so on.

The proceeding in an MNU are very formal in terms of the attire, language used conduct of various members. MNU also involves significant documentation in terms of preparing draft resolution for acceptance, resolutions for acceptance, resolutions for adoption, appeals made to the chair etc....An MNU is very similar to the functioning of the UN as it considers only realistic proposals.

E Newspaper

The electronic newspaper can also prove very successful in helping the students in helping the students read as well as write better. Students can be encouraged to report includes in and college, their thoughts on a particular topic, review etc. The Best entries can be compiled and circulated in an electronic format. It includes an interview with one of our very successful College alumni, puzzles, achievements of our students, personal experience, gadget reviews, trivia and so on.

Book Review

This is one of the initiatives being implemented as a part of the literary activities. Students are free to review any subject or object of their review any subject or object of their choice like a book the students would have to read the book, in this manner this activity ensures that the students reads according his interest.

Language Lab Activities

Reading is an essential part of language instruction at every level because it supports learning in multiple labs, in language labs; there are activities to promote the habit of reading directly or indirectly. In group discussion, students are told the discussions to be conducted the following week will focus on current issue. So they are asked to keep themselves abreast of the latest developments by reading the newspaper every day.

There are many other language lab activities like presentation skills, information gap activities, debates, film reviews and so on which also test the reading acumen of the student.

Incentivization with Books

The literary club of "Chaitanya Bharti Institute of Technology, Hyderabad-communicando, organizes numerous event and competitions throughout the

academic year, winners are always given books as prizes which are written by popular authors like Dale Carnegie, Norman Vincent Peale, Deepak Chopra, etc. The objective behind this incentivization of books is to inculcate the habit of reading and to groom their personality.

Teaching Grammar

After a lesson is explained to the class, creative ways can be adopted to teach grammar. Some paragraphs can be selected from the lesson itself and particular grammar features exhibited in these paragraphs can be taught to the student.

Conclusion

Inculcating the habit of reading in children at school level itself is a challenge nowadays, for engineering students the task is ever greater. Students enter the engineering colleges with little knowledge of the importance of reading habits. Therefore the English language teacher has to lay the foundation and reiterate the benefits of reading to all the students.

To sum up, any lesson can be made interesting to the student provided to the teacher is composed and enterprising. The teacher should use a variety of strategies to motivate the students to develop all the communication skills, a lot of responsibility lies on

the shoulders of the language teacher to make every student of the class participate and complete the tasks provided to them. In a large heterogeneous classroom, some students may be energetic and some of them may be lethargic. For some students from the vernacular medium, an English class itself is intimidating. Only when a teacher becomes cordial will the students break the shell and come out of the cocoon and start participating actively in the Classroom activities.

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