**A SHORT GUIDE FOR PREPARING FOR PROFICIENCY AT HOME**

**FINDING A TEXT TO STUDY**

1. Enter **readworks.org** to find a text appropraite to your level. You have to Sign Up to be a member and use it but membership is free.

2. Click on Content on the top menu.

3. On the left menu, specify the level of the texts you want. Use the following criteria:

**Word count: Min. 900 – Max. 2000**

**Lexile: Min. 900L – Max. 1400 L**

4. Readworks will give you about more than 400 texts. Most of these texts come with a question set as you can see on the following screen (1Q set). Some of the texts offer paired texts for further reading on the same topic (see the first and the second texts below which come with two paired texts each for further reading).



**WHAT TO DO NEXT**

1. Click on the text you want to read. It is a better idea to study the texts with Q sets first. If the text comes with a Vocabulary Activity (some do), do it first. If not you can read the text and try to answer the comprehension questions provided.

2. If you want to see the answers after you have answered all the questions, follow the procedures offered in the website.

3. After you have studied the text for comprehension, go back to the text and analyze it sentence by sentence. Focus on

a) the new vocabulary and important adverbs (e.g. however, unless, although, despite etc.).

b) the sentences whose meaning is not clear or whose structure make it hard to understand.

**STUDYING NEW VOCABULARY AND IMPORTANT ADVERBS**

1. Use ChatGPT to study new vocabulary and important adverbs. Use the following prompt on ChatGPT:

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| **<Sentence in the text with the new word.> <..... new word here> is a new word for me. Can you explain its meaning and give me more example sentences in different contexts?** |

I entered the sentence where ***promote*** (the new word I want to study) comes up and the prompt in the box above. Here is what ChatGPT has given:

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| Of course! The verb "**promote**" means to support or actively encourage something to grow, develop, or become more successful. It can also mean to publicize or advertise a product, service, or idea to increase awareness and interest.Here are some example sentences using "**promote**" in different contexts:**Workplace:** The company decided to promote an employee who demonstrated exceptional leadership skills.**Meaning:** The company advanced an employee to a higher position because of their leadership skills.**Health:** Doctors often promote a balanced diet and regular exercise for maintaining good health.**Meaning:** Doctors encourage the practice of eating a balanced diet and exercising regularly to stay healthy.**Education:** The school organized a campaign to promote reading among students.**Meaning:** The school encouraged students to read more by organizing a campaign.**Marketing:** The new store used social media to promote its grand opening.**Meaning:** The new store advertised its grand opening on social media to attract customers.**Tourism:** The tourism board launched an initiative to promote local attractions to international travelers.**Meaning:** The tourism board started a campaign to encourage international travelers to visit local attractions.**Social Issues:** Various non-profit organizations work to promote human rights around the world.**Meaning:** Non-profit organizations support and advocate for human rights globally.**Events:** The university hosted a fair to promote student organizations and clubs.**Meaning:** The university organized a fair to increase awareness and membership in student organizations and clubs.**Product Sales:** The company hired a celebrity to promote its new line of skincare products.**Meaning:** The company used a celebrity to advertise and increase interest in its new skincare products. |

2. Now I use the same prompt to study “**unlike**” as it comes up in the following sentence.

Ms. Castillo, El Bus TV's co-founder, emphasizes that it promotes no political party, makes no calls to join protests, and doesn't ask passengers for money, **unlike** the many musicians and beggars that hop on and off the buses.

Here is the prompt I use:

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| **Ms. Castillo, El Bus TV's co-founder, emphasizes that it promotes no political party, makes no calls to join protests, and doesn't ask passengers for money, unlike the many musicians and beggars that hop on and off the buses. Can you explain the meaning and use of "unlike" in the sentence above and give me some examples?** |

3. You can use the same prompts to study a specific grammar topic.

**STUDYING SENTENCE LEVEL COMPREHENSION / PARAPHRASING**

1. Once you have covered the new vocabulary and grammar as shown above, focus on sentence level comprehension. You can choose any sentence to study in detail but it is a good idea to especially choose longer sentences with clauses that look hard to understand.

2. You can use the following prompt to study sentence level comprehension (the sentence in italics has been taken from one of the texts on readworks.org):

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| **Can you prepare a multiple choice question based on the following sentence testing paraphrasing? "*When he was 11, he created Lion Lights, a clever way of keeping his family’s livestock safe.*"** |

Here is the multiple choice question ChatGPT has given:

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| Certainly! Here is a multiple-choice question testing paraphrasing of the given sentence:**Question:** Which of the following sentences best paraphrases the original sentence: "When he was 11, he created Lion Lights, a clever way of keeping his family’s livestock safe."?A. At the age of 11, he invented Lion Lights, an innovative method to protect his family's livestock.B. When he turned 11, he designed a system called Lion Lights to entertain his family’s livestock.C. At 11, he found a fun way to play with his family’s livestock called Lion Lights.D. When he was 11, he created Lion Lights to keep himself entertained with his family’s livestock.**Answer:** A. At the age of 11, he invented Lion Lights, an innovative method to protect his family's livestock. |

**STUDYING TEXT LEVEL COMPREHENSION**

1. After you have finished studying at sentence level, you can focus on summarizing the text to improve text level comprehension and writing.

2. Enter the text into ChatGPT first and use the following prompt:

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| **< TEXT HERE ………………………….>****Below is my short summary of the above text. Can you check it for accuracy of content, grammar and vocabulary and give me suggestions for improvement? < ENTER YOUR SUMMARY HERE ……………………..>** |

Here is what ChatGPT has given:

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| Certainly! Here is your summary with some corrections and suggestions for improvement:**Original Summary:** The text is about a group of journalists who want to bring news to their compatriots in Venezuela. There is a censor in the country and no free press. These journalists are broadcasting from buses.**Revised Summary:** The text is about a group of journalists in Venezuela who are fighting censorship by bringing news directly to their compatriots. Due to the lack of free press, these journalists broadcast news from public buses.**Feedback:**1. **Content Accuracy**: Your summary captures the main idea, but it can be more detailed to reflect the text accurately.
2. **Grammar and Vocabulary**: The original summary is mostly grammatically correct but can be improved for clarity and detail.

**Improved Summary:** The text describes how journalist Laura Castillo and a group of six writers and artists in Venezuela combat censorship by delivering news directly to their compatriots. In a country with severe press restrictions, they broadcast three-minute news segments from public buses, using a cardboard frame to mimic a television set. El Bus TV updates passengers on Venezuela's economic and social crisis, avoiding political bias, protest calls, and solicitations for money, unlike musicians and beggars who often ride the buses. Despite initial confusion, their efforts are generally well-received by the public.**Explanation of Improvements:**1. **Added Details**: Including specific details such as Laura Castillo's name, the cardboard frame, and the nature of the news segments helps provide a clearer picture.
2. **Clarity**: Mentioning the lack of political bias and the comparison to musicians and beggars on the buses adds context.
3. **Conciseness**: The improved summary is still concise but captures more elements of the original text for better understanding.
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