

Active reading course material

How do you do that?

1. Start by glancing through your textbook. Why do you think the writer wrote this book?

Look at:

- Title
- Front and back cover ◦ Table of contents
- Introduction
- Summary

Are there certain recurring elements? Can you use that to pinpoint the common thread?

2. Glance through the chapter

Look at:

- Title of the chapter
- Introduction
- Section headings
- First sentences and closing sentences of each section (!) ◦ Figures, tables and diagrams, etc.
- Conclusions and summaries

Scan a chapter to find the key points: ◦ specific facts

- definitions
- formulas
- keywords
- statements

Why did the author write this chapter?

What question are they trying to answer?

How does this chapter relate to the other chapters?

Other questions you can ask yourself to make sure you keep reading the course material actively:

- What do I already know about this subject?
- How difficult is this book? How hard do I have to concentrate and which time of the day/week is best for studying this course unit?
- What else do you need in order to have a command of the course material? Study buddy? Mind map? Make a summary? Ask the lecturer a question?