

## Developing English Reading Skills among the Young Arab (Libyan) Learners

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**Abstract:**

Reading is a skill, which everyone must have to survive in this world, and knowing how to read in English is a skill that is no longer useful only for English speakers. English has become the lingua franca of the world and without knowing how to read in English, survival in the world is going to be very difficult. This article is aimed at shedding light on the existing practices of teaching English reading skills to the young learners of the Arabic world with a special focus on the practices observed in Libya and thereby suggests effective ways of developing English reading skills among them. This study investigates the reading interests of the Arab students' reading interests in English, the obstacles hindering their reading efforts, the persons who help them choose their reading materials, the factors which determine their choice of reading materials and the reasons why they read. The identified factors that cripple the learning of effective reading skills include the challenges for Arabic learners of learning to read in the different script of English, limited access to English texts at home, lack of parental support, the lack of community support for English, and, most importantly, the inappropriate teaching approaches that are often used it is thought that this might limit their ability to decode new words. "Arabic-speaking nations have an unusually strong tradition of oral language" (Palmer, El-Ashry, Leclere, & Chang, 2007, p. 13), with reading aloud and recitation common practices. The reading problems like misunderstanding of the reading process, insufficient linguistic competence in general and practice of reading in particular, differences between English and Arabic and English spelling sound system are addressed in detailed. Finally this article stated some pedagogical suggestions to develop EFL reading skills among the young Arab learners using the Extensive Approach to reading.