



For Secondary I to V

INDISPENSABLE STRATEGIES



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INDISPENSABLE STRATEGIES

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INTRODUCTION

The Importance of Applying Strategies

Reading, writing and oral communication is a complex process. Indeed, it takes us years to develop these skills. Our learning begins at home and continues throughout the course of our education. Yet, how do we succeed in becoming efficient readers, listeners, writers or speakers?

If we had to define the word *efficiency* in a learning context, we could say, "a learner's ability to meet the expectations to carry out highly productive tasks autonomously in a defined time."

How can we attain the goal of efficiency with respect to our communication skills? Beyond acquiring basic knowledge, applying appropriate strategies and proper work methods are excellent ways to do so.

This book is a reference tool for all learners of English. It contains clear explanations on useful and essential strategies which will help learners to develop important skills.

It is not enough to know **how** to do something: we also need to know **what**, **why** and **when** to do it. For this purpose, strategies will first be defined (WHAT DO I DO) and then analyzed, explaining WHY, HOW and WHEN it would be wise to apply them.

Furthermore, in order to facilitate learning, we have integrated models of certain strategies, with or without an accompanying video. These models provide relevant examples for carrying out realistic tasks.

Tool Box for Learners of English as a Second Language

Learning English as a second language involves more than learning to read and write. There are a number of things we can do to immerse ourselves in the language and develop our language skills. Sometimes, learning a second language can be frustrating because what we want to say doesn't always take shape in words as fast as we would like. Moreover, when we are reading or listening to a text in a second language, it can sometimes be discouraging because we don't understand all the words on the first attempt. This is where strategies can be helpful.

The first section of this book is a **Tool Box** offering basic strategies that are useful for learning a second language.

Interconnected Skills

In our everyday lives, we are constantly in communication contexts. These situations can occur simultaneously between the sender and receiver, such as a discussion between two people. There can also be a delay between the transmission and the reception of a message, for example, the difference between the time of writing a newspaper article and that of it being read.

Nevertheless, whatever the communication situation, there is always a sender and a receiver. Depending on the context and the role we play, our actions and perceptions will inevitably differ.

Reading and Listening

When we carry out a reading or listening task, we **receive** a message. We have to process and understand different contents, both involving similar mental processes even though the reception modes are different.

Writing and Speaking

We understand that writing and speaking tasks are related since, in both cases, we **deliver** a message. Therefore, all the preparation and planning are similar.

Consequently, although certain characteristics are specific to each form of communication (oral or writing), in order to limit repetitions and help the learner to grasp the links between the competencies, certain strategies have been grouped together where possible, i.e. reading and listening skills; writing and speaking skills.

The INDISPENSABLE Strategies •

Certain strategies that could be described as universal can be applied to every kind of task, whatever the subject area or goal. For this reason, rather than describing each one of them in terms of reading, writing or oral communication, we have created the INDISPENSABLES section. Although other strategies could have been included in that section, the choice was limited to the following:

- Prepare for a Task
- Understand Instructions
- Determine Your Objective
- Take Notes
- Organize Information
- Paraphrase
- Summarize

Why these in particular? Many reasons explain this choice but here are a few of them.

Whether you are reading a text in order to answer comprehension questions or identify the content (main ideas, supporting details) or you are summarizing a movie, it is essential to prepare mentally and physically for the task, for example, by putting together the necessary school materials.

In addition, many actions are intertwined in applying strategies, for example:

- How can we answer a question or accomplish a task if we do not understand the instructions?
- How can we successfully carry out a reading, writing or oral communication assignment if we have not determined the steps and the actions to be taken?
- How can we summarize a book, make an interactive oral activity or research information if we have not taken any notes?
- How can we summarize a text or research information if we are not able to organize the information or paraphrase it?



Models: The Instructional Strategy Explained

To illustrate the use of learning strategies in a realistic setting, we have modelled certain strategies, including some on video. All models are based on made-up, but realistic school assignments that will allow the learner to identify and understand the importance of applying strategies.

Using strategies, whether for reading, writing or oral communication, requires taking many steps simultaneously. Therefore, it can be difficult to apply them individually. In addition, many strategies require you to reflect and ask questions before taking notes. In order to clarify these steps, certain models are accompanied by videos.



Models on Video

At <u>portailsofad.com</u>, 14 video tutorials clearly illustrate selected models of strategies, thus allowing the learner to watch them being applied.





An Overview of INDISPENSABLE STRATEGIES

Summary Charts to Find Information Fast

In addition to the table of contents, which lists the sections and pages of the book, three summary charts make it easy to find the main content items at a glance.



SECTION I

A Tool Box ...

- to review basic strategies that are useful for learning a second language
- to review the main steps in the reading and writing processes

SECTION II

Strategies ...

- to use in all subject areas
- · for reading or listening
- · for writing or speaking

SECTION III

Models ...

- to learn how to apply the strategies
- based on different texts and made-up but realistic assignments

APPENDICES ...

- to help you apply the strategies
- to provide additional information









The Tool Box is divided in four parts:

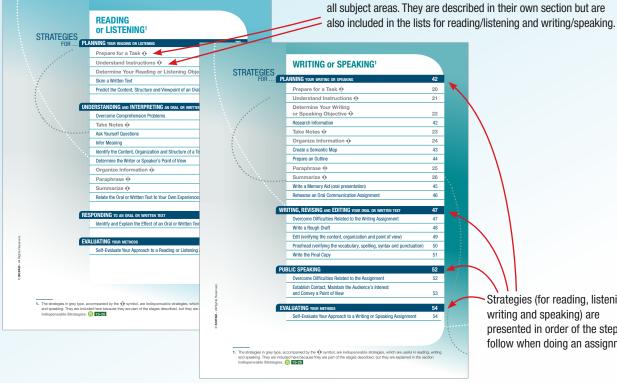
- General Strategies to Develop English Skills
- Speaking Strategies
- Reading and Listening Strategies
- Writing Strategies

Numerous strategies that are useful for learning a second language are offered.



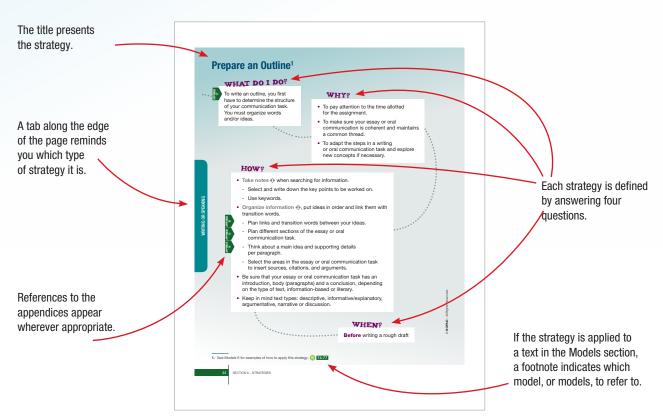






Strategies (for reading, listening, writing and speaking) are presented in order of the steps to follow when doing an assignment.

Strategies that appear in grey type, accompanied by the **(** symbol, are the "indispensable strategies." They can be applied in







REVISE CONTENT AND VOCABULARY¹

MODELLED TASK: Write a 100-word summary

MY WRITING OBJECTIVE

ve finished writing my draft. I must e my text: revise the content, structur and vocabulary.

0000

000

I revise the content ... Oops!

It's not several cell it's ALL the cells.

of a text on the respiratory system.

The human

respiratory system

tract humain respiratory system consist of the nasal cavity

that moistens and warms and purifies the air. This

and the larynx air will pass trough the pharynx and be carry [Finally] to the lungs by the tracheas.][The lungs will ensure

gas exchanges between the air and blood. This supplies the body with all the oxygen it needs

For this step in editing, I'll annotate in green.

he next set of annotations will be in red

For the last review, I'll use a blue pen to distinguish what I've worked on and what I still need to do.

to stay active.]

I must maintain a neutral point of view in my summan not state my opinion and choi

My text contain

function of the sy

I'll use transition words to link the

- closing

The blue band contains the main strategy to learn.

Mental processes (thoughts) are distinguished from written notes.

A footnote points to any other strategies applied in the model.

Certain models are accompanied by a video tutorial to show you exactly how to apply the strategy as you think about the text and annotate it.

Notes on a yellow background provide additional explanations about the process or strategy covered in the model.

A tab reminds you of the model number.

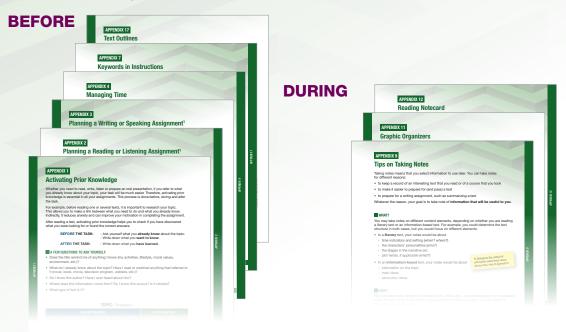
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Appendices

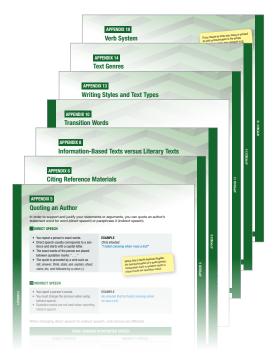
The appendices guide you through the learning process (before, during and after stages) and provide useful information for completing your assignments (reading, listening, writing or speaking).

Steps in the Learning Process





Useful Information



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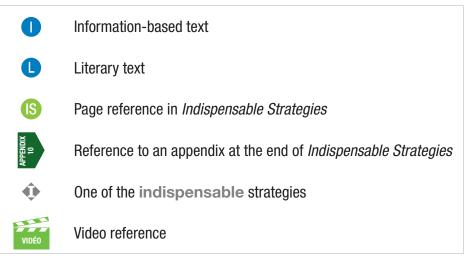
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Lexicon

A lexicon is provided to help learners of English as a second language.



Symbols and Pictograms





The Strategies at a Glance

STRATEGY	PURPOSE	IS ¹
Prepare for a Task	Take time to prepare for the assignment, considering the context, the material and the time allowed.	20
Understand Instructions	Read and interpret the meaning of a question, a request or an instruction.	21
Determine Your Objective	Ask yourself questions about the task to carry out and activate your prior knowledge of the topic.	22
Take Notes	Understand, select and write information in a way to reuse it for a specific purpose.	23
Organize Information	Combine the information and organize it graphically.	24
Paraphrase	Rewrite or retell the essential information that you have read, seen or heard in your own words.	25
Summarize	Find the main ideas of a text, combine the information and rewrite or retell it in fewer words.	26
Skim a Written Text	Without reading the text in detail, look for visual clues that can give you information about the text and its content.	28
Predict the Content, Structure and Viewpoint of an Oral Text	Guess the content, structure and viewpoint of an oral text based on your knowledge of the topic and your understan- ding of texts you have read or listened to before.	30
Overcome Comprehension Problems (reading, listening)	Identify a comprehension problem, find the cause and learn different ways to deal with it.	31
Ask Yourself Questions	Based on your existing knowledge, think of questions you may have about the text (oral or written), the author and the steps to take to complete your assignment.	32
Infer Meaning	Read between the lines, using explicit and implicit information to interpret what the text implies and deduce new information.	33
Identify the Content, Organization and Structure of a Text	Put the text (oral or written) in context, find the main theme and recognize the form of content (a narrative, a description, an explanation or an argument).	34
Determine the Writer or Spea- ker's Point of View	Recognize the writer or speaker and his or her voice, determine the relationship with readers or listeners, and identify the orientation given to his or her words.	36

^{1.} For a clearer idea of how and why to use each strategy, refer to the page indicated in this column.

STRATEGY	PURPOSE	IS
Relate the Oral or Written Text to Your Own Experiences	Search your knowledge, your own experiences, and events you have observed to find connections between them and the text.	37
Research Information	Consult different sources (print, digital, audio, etc.) in order to explore your ideas, a topic or an issue.	42
Create a Semantic Map	Make a list of words and expressions related to the topic or the theme in order to use them while writing an essay or preparing a speaking assignment.	43
Prepare an Outline	Plan your text, determine the structure, organize your ideas.	44
Overcome Difficulties Related to a Writing Assignment	Overcome writer's block or your lack of inspiration: find the cause and learn different ways to deal with it.	47
Overcome Difficulties related to a Speaking Assignment	Overcome stress that causes memory lapses or speaking too fast: find the cause and learn different ways to deal with it.	52
Write a Rough Draft	Transform your ideas and the structure of your outline into sentences.	48
Edit (verifying the content, organization and point of view)	Reread and revise your text for clarity and coherence in order to modify and reorganize it as needed.	49
Proofread (verifying the vo- cabulary, spelling, syntax and punctuation)	Reread and correct your text, while asking yourself how to improve it at the level of words and sentences.	50
Write the Final Copy	Write the final copy of your text, making sure there are no errors or omissions.	51
Write a Memory Aid (for an oral presentation)	Make notes to remember the key points of your presentation.	45
Rehearse an Oral Communication Assignment	Practise giving your oral presentation.	46
Establish Contact, Maintain the Audience's Interest and Convey a Point of View	Be on the lookout for reactions from the audience. Arouse their interest and, if needed, clarify your message while giving a structured, coherent oral presentation adapted to the audience.	53
Identify and Explain the Effect of an Oral or Written text	Look critically at the effects that the text has on you (your feelings, thoughts, values, etc.).	38
Self-Evaluate Your Approach to an Assignment (reading, listening, writing, speaking)	Critically analyze the approach you took to an assignment: your attitude, the strategies you used, your achievement of the objective, etc.	39 and 54

The Models at a Glance

MODELS										
	1	2	3	3	4	4	5	5	5	
STRATEGIES			A	В	A	В	A	В	C	
Determine Your Objective	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Understand Instructions		•								
Take Notes	•	•			•	•	•	•	•	
Organize Information							•	•	•	
Paraphrase					•	•	•	•	•	
Skim a Written Text			•	•						
Overcome Comprehension Problems					•	•	•	•	•	
Ask Yourself Questions		•			•	•	•	•	•	
Infer Meaning										
Identify the Content, Organization and Structure of a Text					•	•	•	•	•	
Determine the Writer or Speaker's Point of View										
Relate the Text to Your Own Experiences										
Create a Semantic Map										
Prepare an Outline										
Edit										
Proofread										
Write a Memory Aid										
Identify and Explain the Effect of a Written Text										

MODEL	BASED ON			
1	Various invented assignments			
2	Questions from different subject areas			
3A	Expository text 1 : Greenhouse Gases			
3B	Front and back covers of L The Penelopiad			
4A	Expository text 1: What Was the Great Depression and Why Did it Start in the USA?			
4B	Narrative text 🕒: Memories From an Old Chap			
5A	Two informational texts 1: John Lennon's Violent Death			
5B	Tale : The Fox and the Crow			
5C	Expository text 1 : The Human Respiratory System			

	MODELS										
STRATEGIES	6 A	6 B	7	8 A	8 B	8 C	9 A	9 B	10 A	10 B	11
Determine Your Objective	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Understand Instructions											
Take Notes							•	•	•	•	
Organize Information											
Paraphrase							•	•	•	•	•
Skim a Written Text								•	•	•	
Overcome Comprehension Problems							•	•	•	•	•
Ask Yourself Questions							•	•	•	•	•
Infer Meaning									•	•	•
Identify the Content, Organization and Structure of a Text							•	•	•	•	
Determine the Writer or Speaker's Point of View							•				
Relate the Text to Your Own Experiences							•			•	•
Create a Semantic Map		•									
Prepare an Outline	•	•									
Edit				•							
Proofread				•	•	•					
Write a Memory Aid			•								
Identify and Explain the Effect of a Written Text							•			•	•

MODEL	BASED ON
6A	Diagram based on an expository text 1: The Human Respiratory System
6B	Invented assignment
7	Expository text 1: The Human Respiratory System
8A 8B 8C	Expository text 1: The Human Respiratory System
9A 9B	Argumentative text 1: Early School Start Times Unhealthy for Students
10A 10B	Narrative Text 🕒 : <i>My Life</i>
11	Tale 1: The Fox and the Crow



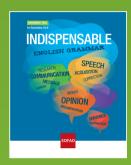
The Appendices at a Glance

The appendices at the end of the book are particularly useful for applying the strategies listed below.

	APPENDIX	STRATEGIES
1.	Activating Prior Knowledge	Determine your objective; predict the content, structure and viewpoint of a text; ask yourself questions; relate the text to your own experiences; identify and explain the effect of a text
2.	Planning a Reading or Listening Assignment	Determine your objective
3.	Planning a Writing or Speaking Assignment	Determine your objective
4.	Managing Time	Determine your objective
5.	Quoting an Author	Research information
6.	Citing Reference Materials	Research information
7.	Keywords in Instructions	Understand instructions
8.	Information-Based Texts versus Literary Texts	Take notes; infer meaning; identify the content, organization and structure of a text; write a rough draft
9.	Tips on Taking Notes	Take notes, ask yourself questions, research information
10.	Transition Words	Overcome comprehension problems, prepare an outline, write a rough draft
11.	Graphic Organizers	Organize information, research information
12.	Reading Notecard (narrative text)	Organize information
13.	Writing Styles and Text Types	Skim a written text; predict the content, structure and viewpoint of a text; identify the content, organization and structure of a text; prepare an outline; write a rough draft
14.	Text Genres	Skim a written text; predict the content, structure and viewpoint of a text; identify the content, organization and structure of a text; prepare an outline; write a rough draft
15.	Evaluating Your Approach to a Reading or Listening Assignment	Self-evaluate your approach to a reading or listening assignment
16.	Evaluating Your Approach to a Writing or Speaking Assignment	Self-evaluate your approach to a writing or speaking assignment
17.	Text Outlines	Prepare an outline
18.	Verb System	Write a rough draft
19.	Checking Content	Edit (verifying the content, organization and point of view)
20.	Revising Your Text	Proofread (verifying the vocabulary, spelling, syntax and punctuation)
21.	Correction Guidelines	Proofread (verifying the vocabulary, spelling, syntax and punctuation)

THE INDISPENSABLES FOR ENGLISH ARE PERFECT FOR INDEPENDENT STUDY.

Whether to refresh your knowledge or to find essential information on grammar, this work is a must-have.



All the essential grammar knowledge you need.



A practical tool outlining the strategies to use for improved writing, reading, listening, and speaking skills.

THIS LEARNING TOOL IS THE IDEAL COMPLEMENT FOR ALL ENGLISH LEARNERS.

INDISPENSABLE

This book is a reference tool for all learners of English. Moreover, it contains a Tool Box specifically designed for learners of English as a second language.

This reference tool offers clear explanations on useful and essential strategies which will help learners to develop important skills.

Strategies are first defined (WHAT DO I DO) and then analyzed, explaining WHY, HOW and WHEN it would be wise to apply them.

Models of certain strategies are integrated, including some on video. The models provide relevant examples for carrying out realistic tasks.

Video tutorials are available on portailsofad.com.

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- · Reading or Listening Strategies
- Writing or Speaking Strategies

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