

01 Reading matters – Bedeutung und Wichtigkeit des Lesens erkennen

- A1** Look at the picture below. Imagine you have to find the way, but you can't read the street signs and you have no mobile phone. Describe how you feel and write down five suitable adjectives.



- A2** Imagine a world without letters and numbers. Which activities wouldn't be possible then? Think of at least five activities and write them down in the chart.

activities without letters	activities without numbers	activities without letters and numbers
• _____	• _____	• _____
• _____	• _____	• _____
• _____	• _____	• _____
• _____	• _____	• _____
• _____	• _____	• _____

- A3** Tell your partner.

student A:	student B:
<p>Can I start?</p> <p>I think... wouldn't be possible without letters.</p> <p>I think... bill would be impossible without numbers.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Thank you!</p>	<p>Yes, you can. / No, wait a minute, please.</p> <p>Alright.</p> <p>Now I'll...</p>

Why is reading important?

- A1** Work together in groups of four. Decide who wants to become an expert of paragraph A, who of paragraph B,... Read your paragraph **silently** and fill in the column of your paragraph (M3).

Reading means listening to someone who is speaking through written letters

A If you're able to read these lines, you're literate – which means you can read and write. Nowadays we take the ability¹ to read for granted². Yet, not so long ago it used to be a skill only a few people had. Learning to read was dependent on³ status in society, access⁴ to education, money, and gender. It is a relatively new trend in our modern society that most people are being taught how to read. Texts are everywhere – on our news feeds, our cereal boxes, and our direction signs. It is easy to believe that everyone finds it easy to understand these written messages, but the reality is that there are people who can't read very well or not at all. Being able to read still is a privilege⁵.

B Literacy describes the ability to read. People can miss out on becoming literate for many reasons. Perhaps they end their school educations early because a close family member died. Perhaps they have to help out by working or caring for someone. Long periods of illness can also be the cause of missing out on important reading lessons. Those are only a few things that may lead to someone not learning how to read at all or as good as their peers. When this happens, we talk about illiteracy, the absence of the ability to read. Not being able to read doesn't say anything about intelligence. It doesn't mean an illiterate person isn't smart, it only means they didn't learn this one skill, which is reading.

C Imagine you couldn't read in a world where you are surrounded by texts and signs everywhere. You might get really creative in trying to understand all the messages around you. They would seem like part of some secret language to you and it would be your mission to find out codes to be able to translate these strange symbols. You might even find highly clever ways to get the encrypted⁶ information and navigate yourself through unknown territory.

D Often people who can't read feel ashamed⁷. It can't be easy to see most people around you easily doing the one thing that is very complicated to you. You might hide that you can't read out of fear of being laughed at or being excluded⁸. It must also be frustrating having countless messages all around you in a language that seems foreign to you. You only realize how much we depend on reading when you see how a world without his ability would look like. Writing texts and reading them is a big part of communication and yet it is not available to the entire community.

- A2** Go together into new expert groups (all experts of paragraph A, paragraph B,...). Complete your notes on M3.

- A3** Go back to your first group and tell the others about your paragraph. Fill in the rest of the chart with the help of all group members.

¹ ability: the physical or mental power or skill needed to do something

² to take sth for granted: to never think about something because you believe it will always be available or stay exactly the same

³ dependent on sth: influenced or decided by something

⁴ access: the right or opportunity to use or look at something

⁵ privilege: an advantage that only one person or group of people has

⁶ encrypted: information put into a special form that most people cannot read

⁷ ashamed: feeling guilty or embarrassed about something you have done or about a quality
⁸ excluded: to prevent someone from something from entering a place or taking part in an activity