Tips for improving reading comprehension

1. **<u>Preview</u>** – Look over the material in order to get a general idea of what the topic, subject, etc. is about. Check to see if you understand the main ideas before reading for details.

2. **<u>Use context clues</u>** – If you don't understand a word, try using context clues to figure it out. Ex. The man seemed loquacious and didn't stop talking. The word "loquacious" is an adjective, since it follows a verb and is directly describing the man. Moreover, using the rest of the sentence "didn't stop talking" tells us that "loquacious" means someone that is very talkative.

3. **<u>Identify the prefix/stem/suffix</u>** – Being able to determine the parts of a word will help you with reading quicker and improving your vocabulary. Ex. The girl talked about her feelings ambiguously. The word "ambiguously" can be divided into several parts. First, -ambo means "two." Generally, the ending –ous means it is an adjective; however, in this case the word ends in –ly making it an adverb. Therefore, put the parts together and we see that "ambiguously" means "in two different ways."

4. **<u>Underline/highlight</u>** – While reading a passage, essay, etc., it is helpful to also underline, highlight, or make marks in the book, telling you it is an important part. Writing down important pieces of information in the book will make it easier to study when you re-read it.

5. **<u>Take notes</u>** – Being able to take notes on what you read is a very important skill. The more practice you have, the easier it will get. Taking notes either in a separate book, or directly on the pages you are reading, will allow you to see the extra information immediately, thus improving reading comprehension.

6. **<u>Use a dictionary</u>** – If you see a word multiple times and don't understand the meaning, or if you are confused about something due to a single word, use a dictionary to determine the meaning. An English-only dictionary is the best way to practice and improve your reading skills in English. However, if you are reading for fun and simply want to know the definition quickly, a translator would be ok.

7. **<u>Read, read, read</u>** – The more reading you will do, the easier it will be for you. Even if you do not fully understand everything immediately, the more you see words written down (with correct grammar), it will be much easier for you to read in the future. Furthermore, your vocabulary and grammar will improve, and your reading speed will increase.