

By Joseph Poulshock, PhD, Editor ReadOasis.com

10-Point Guide for Big, Easy Reading

For Learners



How do you start big, easy reading?



The Future of Language Learning.

Think of the future. We connect our brains and bodies to computers. We copy books, maps, and languages into our brains! Ready? Connect yourself to the computer. Push the button. WOW! You know English! I hope it doesn't hurt. Now seriously, I like stories about the future. But today – big reading works great! It copies language into our brains.

Science shows it! We can copy English into our brains by BIG, EASY reading. We can start today. In this book, I share 10 points for doing big reading. We can use these 10 points at my website – ReadOasis.com. Or, we can follow this guide with any reading system.

One – Know the Power of Big Reading.

We all need to know the power of big reading. Big reading builds more than reading skills. It grows ALL language skills! Big reading helps us in many ways. Readers learn about happiness, health, success, and wisdom. We enjoy exciting stories. Reading fiction helps us



Three – Plan for Reading.

We need time to read. Teachers can give class time for reading. Why? Because reading works as a great use of time! Good teachers give regular time for in-class reading. We need to read outside of class, too. We can read on the train or the bus. We can read when we wait in line. We can read in a library, at Starbuck's, or at home. We can carry small books – like [easy readers](#). And we can read stories from ReadOasis anywhere. We can enjoy ReadOasis stories on a smartphone, tablet, or computer. I read a book first thing in the morning. I read before checking the news. I read first before checking Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram. **I read first because reading helps me grow and learn.** When will we read? Where? What time? For how long? **Remember, every day we need a plan for reading.**

Four – Start Easy.

In Japan, students do translation reading. We call it "yakudoku" reading. They work with hard words and translate. They know 70% to 80% of the words in a story. Why is this bad? It is way too hard – even in our first language. "Yakudoku" students hate reading. **Instead,**



we can start easy. What is easy? We need to know 98% of the words in a story or book. That's easy.

To start easy, we can use [easy readers](#). We can buy them or get them at a library. At ReadOasis, we can start at the easiest level – [ReadOasis CEFR A1](#). By starting easy, we get a natural feel for English. Many students find study books too difficult. But we can find easy books and stories – **at just the right level**. Remember the right number. We need to know 98% of the words in a story. If we know 98%, then we can enjoy stories without a dictionary. We can learn new words as we read. **Remember to start easy – at the right level!**

Five – Keep Reading at the Right Level and Move Up.

We need to keep reading at the right level. As we read at the right level, reading becomes easier. When we know 100% of the words in a level, we can move up. If the next level becomes too hard, we can move down again. If we can't get books, we can read stories at ReadOasis. We can use the [10-Level CEFR](#) system or [5-Step Vocabulary](#) system at ReadOasis.com.



Please remember: **we need to know 98% of the words in a story.** That's two new words per page in a book. For an outside limit, we can know 95% of the words. But this makes reading harder. If we read at a hard level, we will dislike reading or hate it.

At ReadOasis, how can we know our level? As members, we read a story. We click "I read this story honestly." ReadOasis shows the word count of the story. We count the words in the story that we don't know. For a 500 word story, we should meet only 10 new words – or 2%. **Remember: (1) Start easy. (2) Read at your level. (3) When ready, move to the next level.**

Six – Read Big with Purpose.

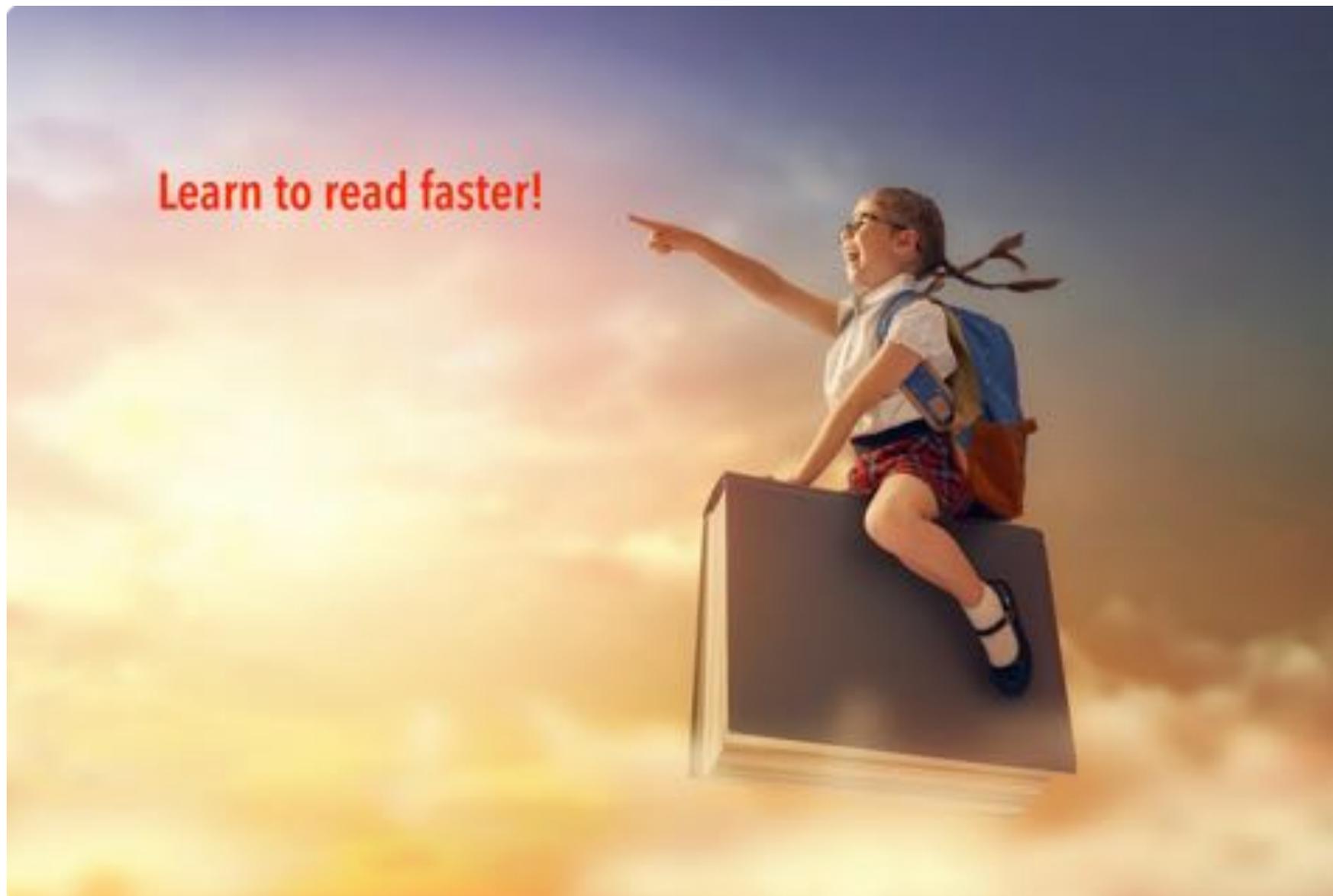
As we read at our level, we read **with purpose.** How do we read with purpose? We read to get helpful information. We read to learn interesting ideas. We read to enjoy stories. We read because we love stories. We read because reading changes our brains. As big readers, we read as much as we can.



How do we know if we are reading big? We can count words. We can set a goal of 5,000 words per week – or one easy book a week. For slow readers, this will take about 10 minutes per day. Remember, big readers count words. In schools, students get grades for word counts. More words = higher grades.

At ReadOasis, we use a [ring game system](#). Readers set daily goals for story word counts. If we reach our daily goal, we get a ring. We also use a ring game for books. If we reach our weekly book goal, we get a ring. The game works with a simple purpose. **Close your story rings every day. Close your book rings once a week.**

When we read with purpose, we feel free! We feel free to choose stories and books. We feel free to follow our interests. We get reading ideas from friends and teachers, too. They help us find good stories and books. Remember, good stories and books are waiting for us! When we enjoy a story, we have a "flow" experience. With flow experience, we forget about time. Maybe we miss our train or bus stop. Why? Because we got lost in the story! We forget that we are studying English. We just enjoy! **Let's remember our purpose for reading. We read to close our daily reading rings. We read to learn big ideas. We read**



to get smarter. We read to enjoy stories. Then what happens? We learn English in a natural way!

Seven – Learn to Read Faster!

English learners need to read faster. We can read faster in a speed reading course. We have three speed reading courses at ReadOasis. To practice reading faster, we need to know 100% of the words in a story. We cannot practice reading faster with hard stories or books.

In a speed reading course, we read with a timer. We write down our reading speed. Then we take a small test. We want to get about 80% on the test. If we get 100%, we are reading too slowly. And we don't learn to read faster. What is a good goal? By the end of the speed reading course, try to reach 200 words per minute. Some people feel happy with speeds of 150 or 175 per minute. To learn more, see the [speed reading courses at ReadOasis](#).

With practice, we can improve our reading speed!



Eight – Watch Your Progress.

How can we check our improvement? (1) Check and grow our reading speed in a speed reading course. (2) Count words. ReadOasis uses a word counting system. Make a goal. Try for 300,000 words in 6 months. Try for 2,000,000 Words in 1 or 2 years. (3) Talk in groups or "book clubs" about what we learn. We talk about how stories or books help us. (4) Use "study cards." For each story or book, we make cards. We test ourselves on words or ideas from a story or book. (5) Listen to stories at ReadOasis, and count the words.

Some teachers say, "big reading is all you need!" That's partly true. Big reading can work as the key way to learn English. But I think big reading works as one key. Paul Nation says big reading is the best way to improve how we teach. What does that mean for learners?

Big reading works as the best way to improve how we learn!

Paul Nation gives four points for studying languages. (1) We need to get meaning and messages through reading and listening. (2) We need to practice writing and speaking – with real messages. (3) We need to grow speed with listening, speaking, reading, and



writing. (4) We need to study the structure of language. These four ideas give us balance. **But look! Language study is not the main thing. Meaning is the main thing. Messages are the main thing.** And we read big to get messages. Reading gives us messages to talk and write about! And at ReadOasis, we can grow speed. How? By practicing reading and listening speed – with interesting messages.

Nine – Do Big Listening.

Do you want to listen to fast English with confidence? We can do listening with big reading. Many easy books come with voice recordings. At ReadOasis, all stories play the voice of Amazon Polly. We [asked](#) learners about Polly. They say "Polly sounds like a natural human voice!"

For big listening, we need to listen easy. How? We listen at one level lower than our reading level. For listening, we need to know about 100% of the words in a story. As we listen to stories at ReadOasis, we can use the word count system. At first, the voice can feel fast. But if we keep listening, we will get a feel for the voice and understand it well.



Ten – Remember "Bee" Means Big, Easy, and Enjoyable.

The word "Bee" paints a picture of big reading. "Bee" does not just mean a yellow and black insect. It also means "a meeting for work or fun." In a "[Reading Bee](#)" we join a group of writers, characters, and readers. We join a group of writers. When we read a writer, we meet the writer's mind. Readers meet characters, too. When we read Harry Potter, we meet Harry and his friends. Readers meet with other readers. We talk about books and stories together. We grow from joining a "Reading Bee." In a Reading Bee, reading is:

BIG. We can set a goal of 5,000 words per week. We can set a six-month goal at 300,000 words. At 125 words per minute, we can read 300,000 words in 183 days at 13 minutes per day. With 300,000 words, we enter the world of big reading. We get confidence, speed, and results. For bigger goals, we can try for 1 Million words, or 2 Million words. 2 million words = 1 year of living in an English speaking country!

EASY. Read at the right level. We know 98% of the words on every page. Easy reading helps us learn new words. Easy reading helps us enjoy reading. Easy reading prepares us for harder reading. When ready, we move up to the next level. **ENJOYABLE.** We read for



enjoyment; **big reading feels like play.** When we read to enjoy, we freely choose stories and books. We can get reading ideas from teachers and friends, too. If we start a book we don't like, we can stop. And we can start reading something else. We can read to learn about happiness, health, money, success, and wisdom. We can enjoy good stories.

Can You Remember the 10 Points?

Close this book. Test yourself. Try to write down the 10 points. Then open the book again. How many did you remember? Can you explain each point in your own words?

1. **Know the power of reading.** Reading makes you smarter. Reading feels like play.
2. **Get a paper or digital library – at your level.** Go to the library and read many easy readers at your level. Or join ReadOasis, and read anywhere.
3. **Plan for reading.** Read first thing in the morning. Read before reading news. Read before checking Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram. Find a time and place to read daily.
4. **Start easy.** Don't read hard books and stories. Find books and stories where you know 98% of the words.

5. **Keep reading at the right level and move up.** Read at your level. When you know 100% of the words, move to the next level.
6. **Read with purpose.** Remember your purpose. Read to better yourself. Learn about health, happiness, money, and success. Read for fun. Play a game and [close your reading rings at ReadOasis](#).
7. **Learn to read faster.** Do a speed reading course. Try for 200 words per minute!
8. **Watch progress.** Check reading speed. Check word counts. Meet with friends and talk about stories and books. Use study cards to remember words and ideas.
9. **Do big listening.** Listen to easy books. Listen to stories at ReadOasis. For listening, you need to know 100% of the words. Listen and get a feel for the voices of English.
10. **Remember "Bee."** Read BIG. Read EASY. Read to ENJOY.

For the original Top 10 Principles of Extensive reading, see Day and Bamford's famous journal article: [Top Ten Principles for Teaching Extensive Reading](#), or the [Extensive Reading Top 10](#), a short summary produced by the Extensive Reading Foundation.

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About this Book

CEFR Level: A2 (Beginner+)

ReadOasis: Step 1

Word Count: 2,308 Words

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