

Improvement of Reading Comprehension by Using English Newspaper

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Abstract

The learners were excited to explore newspapers with their different sections. They were required to apply their reading comprehension skills while attempting to read a newspaper article: skimming, scanning and summarizing. The learners' ability to cut through the challenging task was measured by a written assessment as they were required to present a summary of the main ideas of a chosen article in addition to expressing their own personal opinion. The learners were judged according to four points: the linguistic structure, dependence on the original text, the number of ideas presented, and expressing their personal opinion. Finally, the learners' feedback on the current experience was collected via a questionnaire.

Learning a language is a complicated phenomenon. As a result of globalization, the world has become global village with increased connectivity which has consequently increased the need of a common language to make communities across the globe understandable to each other. Hence, English language has gained the status of that global or international language as it is spoken and understood in approximately all corners of the world. The whole world is divided in three categories on the base of the status of English in each country. The first category where English is used as native language includes countries where English is the native language. English as second language countries are those where English is not the native language but is widely used in education or other sectors. The third category where English is not used actively, this includes countries where the status of English is that of the foreign language.

Keywords: Reading Comprehension; Using English Newspaper

Introduction

Reading is one of the important skills in English because it is a source to get information, knowledge, and pleasure. All of them can be found from book, newspaper, magazine, journal, and other sources. The readers can also increase their vocabulary. Reading is something crucial and indispensable for the students because the success of their study depends on the greater part of their ability to read. If their reading skill is poor they are very likely to fail in their study or at least they will have difficulty in making progress. On the other hand, if they have a good ability in reading, they will have a better chance to succeed in their study (Junior, 2013:23)



Although reading can give us much information, but several people view that reading is a boring activity and just kills their time. In the class, the students were more interested in playing than paying attention their lessons especially in reading. Learning reading in the classroom makes the students bored. The student did not feel pleasant when their teacher gives them a lesson. Teaching reading in the class, for some students, has not given a significant influence how to comprehend the reading.

In learning reading, there were some factors made the students difficult to understand and master it. The first The students did not have adequate vocabulary. Second, the methods applied by the teacher did not appeal to the students' which led to a lack of interaction in the classroom, unpleasant and ineffective learning environment. Furthermore, the other problem that made the students not interest in learning reading in the classroom was the media. In this case, the students only read a full text. Lastly, the most common factor faced by the students in reading was the lack of the students' interest in learning. In this case the researcher find best strategy to improve through English Newspaper as a media in teaching reading.

Media is a tool of communication between teachers and students. The media is the interface that is able to connect or communicate both of them. It is useful in the learning English in order to provide stimulation to the students. We can conclude that the media can be a massage from the teacher to the students. Then, the students can receive well.

The teacher can use some media in the classroom such as books, magazines, newspaper, films, and video recorders. In this case, the researcher tried to use newspaper as media to deliver lessons in the classroom. Newspaper is a rich source of authentic materials which can be very motivating and inspiring a wide range of activities. Then, the researcher chose newspaper as one of appropriate media in teaching reading. In this case, she assumed that it was effective to improve the students reading skill (Smaldino and Russel, 2005:65).

The newspaper articles are been to be highly motivational for students of all ages and students enjoy the variety of reading and visual material included in the newspaper, teachers will help their students comply with state educational standards and prepare them for both standardized tests and real life situations by using newspaper articles and photos in conjunction with specific strategies and rubrics. Therefore, the important function of modern education which is to teach students to use many informational resources available, including the newspaper as a current references can be achieved (Elmadwi, 2014:2).

In this research, to improve students' reading comprehension and make students have high motivation, the researcher will focus on English newspaper. Newspaper is a great teaching resource to use in the classroom. It is cheap, plentiful and we can use it to teach just about any subject such as social students, math, writing or reading.

1. The Concept of Reading

1.1 Definition of Reading

Reading has various definitions as the variety of people's point of view. Some definitions are follows: Thomas (1982:36) defines reading as the perception of written symbols as meaningful, involving recognition of words, fluency, and comprehension. Ranking & Sciener (1985:57) in Kustaryo (1998:2) say that the reading is recognition of various written symbols with exiting knowledge and comprehension of the information and ideas communicated. From the definition we can see that the reading is combination of some components that result in one action that is known as reading. This statement is supported by Smith. He says that reading involves two aspect of the reader himself internal and external aspects.

In addition, Nurhadi (1988:13) say that reading is the complex and complicated process because it involves the internal and external factors of reader. The internal factors mean everything with comes from the reader that can result in an interaction in the reading process. The external factors mean everything which has relationship with the reading materials and the environment where the reading taking place.

Nurhadi (1988:13) classifies the internal and external factors as follows: Internal factors: (IQ) intelligence, interest, attitude, talent, motivation, and the aims of reading.

Kustaryo (1998:2) defines reading as the activity that consists of the combination of word recognition, intellect, and emotion interrelated with the prior knowledge to understand the massage being communicates. It can be concluded that the successful readers are those who establish purpose reading, so that they are able to comprehend the content of a passage.

1.2 Definition of Reading Comprehension

Some people have formulated definition of reading comprehension. Below are various definition of reading comprehension. Reading comprehension is an active thinking process which not only depends on comprehension skills the state "Reading comprehension understanding what has been read it is an active thinking process that depends not only on comprehension involves understanding the vocabulary seeing the relationship among words and concepts, organizing, ideas, recognizing author's purpose, making judgment, and evaluating" Kustaryo (1998:11)

By this point of view, we can say that reading comprehension is very important because of the students' do not understand what they have read. They cannot catch the idea of the researcher through reading. Reading comprehension is at once unitary process and a set of discrete processes. So, they explore comprehension from two angle; which the written units the reader must understand and the different levels of comprehension that he or she should achieve.

Reading comprehension means the understanding, evaluating and utilize of information and ideas gained through an interaction between the reader and the author. Reading comprehension is such a kind of dialogue between an author and a reader in which the written language becomes the medium that cause the dialogue happen when the two persons communicate through the medium of print.



Turner in Alexander (1998:159) points out that reading comprehension involves taking meaning to a text in order to obtain meaning from that text. Anderson and Pearson in Alexander (1998:160) state that comprehension is a special thinking process. The readers comprehend by actively constructing meaning internally from interacting with the material that is read.

By looking over those definitions above, it can be conclude that reading is an active process where the readers try to gain the information given by the author and understand what actually the purpose of the author is.

1.3 Kinds of Reading

There are three kinds of reading (Tinker, 1975:5) they are:

1) Reading Aloud

Reading aloud is kind of reading where a reader expressed orally every word in the text. The purpose of reading aloud is to improve the students' ability in pronouncing the words, stressing the words, stressing the words, and having a good intonation about every sentence in the passage.

Reading aloud is important and the students' should be taught to read aloud. All pupils should be taught to read aloud well enough to communicate satisfactorily with their listening, to share an interesting item, or to illustrate some print under discussion. Reading aloud can be done in group or individually it is done individually; the teacher can check up his/her Students' ability in the pronunciation and the stress of the words as well the sentence intonation individually. Of the activity is done in group, the teacher should check and evaluate the students in group. The kind of reading is helpful for both the students' and the teachers. The students' who are involved in reading aloud activity measure their own skill of pronunciation and in stressing the word show by the teacher in reading activity aloud. It is also helpful to improve to improve the word recognition. On the other hand, the teachers will find it easier to identifying what kinds of difficulties his/her students' face in reading.

2) Silent reading

Silent reading means reading the text by heart where there is no voice is expected when reading. This kind of reading requires the reader to find out the meaning of words or sentences and find out the ideas written in the text, not to practice the practice by a reader who wants to comprehend the text in reading comprehension process.

In silent reading, a reader read the text without voice. So that, the reader needs much attention and full concentration to what he is reading because his/her purpose is to gain the meaning given in the following text. While the students' are reading silently, the teacher should control the class to give some helps to the Students' when necessary. For example, if they find difficulties in the text such as finding new word or at confused about the grammatical structure that make the meaning unclear, the teacher can explain a directly or give the word meaning directly. So, it will help them to comprehend reading the passage.

3) Speed reading

Speed reading is the reading faster or read the text speedily to gets the ideas or comprehend it at one. Speed reading has to run side by side with reading comprehension. The reader is required not only to read faster but also to understand the ides. However, the rate of reading speed of course depends on the kinds of reading material itself. The rate of speed of reading a story or narration will be different from the reading scientific materials. Reading scientific materials need creative thinking, but reading story or narrative only needs feeling and mind.

2. Purpose of reading

The essential purpose of reading generally is to get new information and/or for pleasure. Reading for information is reading that we not stop analyzes the grammatical structures; we understand the structure without thinking about it Reading for information requires that we understand the meaning of a passage.

Reading for information include the materials which are classified as nonfictions; sciences, social studies, current affairs personal opinion, technical matters, news magazine, newspaper and article. Readers scan to locate specific information in a text and skim to extract general information from it. Therefore, the teachers have to match reading skill to reading purpose.

According to Bellafore (1998:315-317) reading for pleasure, on the other hand, the reader may read either quickly or slowly based on the way he likes. It is associated largely with novel, short stories, biographies, plays and poems. Reading for pleasure is different from the reading for study, reading for pleasure, we do not have to remember the details of pleasure reading book, because we will not be tested about what we read. According to many expert, pleasure reading is the key to improve your English.

In other term, readings for student of English as second language is important because through reading the students learn not only how to pronounce English word correctly but also to increase their vocabulary.

Also through reading activities students learn how to identify, interpret and evaluate ideas as noted by Dorothy J. and Mc. Ginnie E. Smith; Reading involves thinking it is not merely a word drilling activity. Reading is a purposeful process of identifying, interpreting and evaluating ideas in terms of the mental context of the reader. Dorothy (1974:3).

3. The Use of Media in Teaching Reading

This section describes of definition of media, visual media in teaching Reading, Newspaper as the visual media in teaching reading, ways of using picture and real news of newspaper in teaching reading, and reading activities using newspaper as teaching media. All the points were discussed on the following.

3.1 Definition of media



Medium (plural: media) derives from Latin word that means “between”, and the term is used to refer to anything which carries information from source to receiver. Alwasilah (2011:30) defined media as any physical tools which provide message and stimulation for learning. Meanwhile, Smaldino and Russel (2005:256) labeled media as means of communication and source of information. Moreover, they stated that the purpose of media is to facilitate communication and learning. Examples of media can be books, pictures, internet, television, and so on.

The use of media can be very useful in order to minimize the difficulties faced by learners in English foreign language learning. According to Smaldino and Russel (2005:256), teaching media can encourage students to actively participate in learning activities. In other words, media can be used to engage students in learning. It should be noted since effective learning happens when students are engaged in meaningful tasks, interacting with the content Smaldino & Russel (2005:258).

Furthermore, Alwasilah (2011:30) had also presented the advantages of media in teaching and learning. He said that media can be used to avoid too many words on a message, to increase pupil's participation, to improve the willingness to learn, to provide chances for pupils to learn based on their interest, to build a direct interaction between pupils and environment, and to provide same stimulation for making the same experiences and perception.

Following Smaldino and Russel (2005:258), there are six basic types of teaching media; (1) text, alphanumerical characters that may be displayed in many formats such as books, poster, etc, (2) audio which is anything that can be heard, e.g. music, noise, etc, (3) visual which is commonly used to promote learning including drawing, cartoons, graphic, chart, etc, (4) motion, such as video, animation, and so on, (5) manipulative media that can be touched and handled by students, and the last is (6) people, it can be teachers or subject matter experts.

3.2 Visual Media

Dale (2009: 2) claims that the Visual is a picture, chart, or other presentation that appeals to the sense of sight, used in promotion or for illustration or narration, often used in the plural” According Sadiman in Amalia (2010:9) stated that “Visual media, It is media that can be seen and the function of visual media is distributing the message from the sources to the receiver. Some of the examples are picture/photo, sketch, diagram, chart, graphs, cartoon, poster, map, globe and flannel board”

4. Newspaper as the Visual Media in Teaching Reading

Newspapers are the publications that are printed with ink on paper, and generally published on a regular schedule and containing a variety of contents. Newspaper has many articles and pictures that can stimulate the students' interest in reading.

A picture is an account or description of something that enables one to form a mental picture or impression of it (Oxford Advance Learner's Dictionary). Harmer (2001:79) labeled a

picture as an illustration of image that can be used a two dimensional visual representation of person, place, or thing. Pictures can be in the form of flashcards, cue cards, large wall pictures, photograph, illustrations, or projected slides on computer screen. In addition, teachers can also directly draw a picture on a board to help with explanation.

Considering its benefits, the use of text with picture as the visual media can be very powerful in teaching reading. Firstly, and the most important thing is because there is a harmonious relationship between word and picture Arizpe and Styles (2003:39).

“The relationship between word and image is always dialogical and that, in learning from the text and picture, the cognitive functions they perform are the most significant” Picture in a text is not just a picture without any meaning. It contains organized and structured message which is connected with verbal text Arizpe and Styles (2003:39). Some students may find it difficult to comprehend a text verbally, and pictures then plays role to provide a source of non-verbal information. Furthermore, pictures in a text give a chance to readers to understand more and get better comprehension of a text.

The next benefit is that pictures in text can be motivating and engaging. It is because picture is an appealing media that have the power to engage students. Picture can catch students’ attention so that they can focus on text and the reading activities. Moreover, pictures are also useful in creating fun, attractive, and active reading activities.

The other advantage of a picture is that it can create a context of language and connect the language to the real world. For example, it may be difficult to make students understand the meaning of the word “elephant” only by explaining the definition or telling the characteristics of an elephant, but it is also likely to be difficult to bring a real elephant into a classroom. A picture of an elephant then can bring a real world in a simple way which students can easily understand the meaning of the word “elephant”.

5. Newspaper

5.1. Definition of Newspaper

A newspaper is a lightweight and disposable publication, usually printed on low-cost paper called newsprint, containing a journal of current news in a variety of topics. These topics can include political events, crime, sports, and opinion. Newspaper is a part of mass media often circulated to the public daily and weekly. It applied a lot of information to fulfill the need of society and it one of visual communication for public as well. Hornby in Arni Djamil (1995:182) states that newspaper is printed publication appearing daily or weekly and containing news, advertisement and article on various subjects. Then, Mariser in Djamil (1995:182) states that newspaper are printed publication, issue with newspaper.

Newspaper like the Jakarta Post, with its much different section, is an excellent reading material. It is containing current news that happen all over the world. And with its special style of writing, it is one of the best places to look for reading material. Every day, most people in the world spend their time to read newspaper. In connection with the definition above,



newspaper generally provides news, advertisement, article and various subjects like sport, arts, etc. The writer tries to describe the general one as follow:

1) Advertisement in Newspaper

Talking about advertisement it thing we notice that is related issued by some industry or sat it deals with public notification offering or asking for goods, services, etc. to advertisement and job advertisement is being shown is newspaper.

2) Article in Newspaper

Article is particular items or separated thing provided thing provided in newspaper. Specifically, article in newspaper are place of writing, usually dealing with particular issues or topics.

5.2 The Advantage of Using Newspaper

When teacher selects materials for teaching, she has to decide whether the material is appropriate for her students or not. It can be judged appropriate if the material is meaningful for students or not. The material is more meaningful if it is related with students need, experience, interest, morality principle and their future.

A newspaper can be used as the basis for extensive practice in the four language skills. (Sanges, 1989:39).

According to Grundy (1993:9) Newspaper have fulfilled this requirement. First, it can be used as cross cultural medium, because newspapers probably the best single source of information about the host culture and about the most important people in the host society. It can be taught for something about psychology, habits and values of people in the foreign culture. Second, the realistic characters and actions may motivate students for reading. Third, newspapers can be used to teach other language skills: listening, speaking and writing.

Good teaching material can be used to teach many aspects of language. Again, newspapers have this qualification. As stated by Joe Pemagbi:

“Newspaper can be used to teach many aspects of language and communication skills. Editorials and gossip columns can be used to teach formal and informal varieties of English; editorials and feature articles can provide passage for summary and comprehension; letters to editor can demonstrate good features of letter writing. A newspaper may contain material for teaching various types of writing: description, analysis and synthesis, comparison and contrast and process description; and they provide models of good written form: paragraphing, topic sentence, introductions, conclusion, etc.

Finally, newspapers present pedagogic structure. Evidence can be seen the following example of texts about a similar theme, i.e. accident but taken from different sources. One is taken from a textbook and another is taken from newspaper.

5.3 The Disadvantage of Using Newspaper

1) The grading of the various parts of the text might be different. This can particularly be a problem with novels and poetically written newspaper articles, where the descriptive

introduction is often several levels higher than the story will be once the plot and/ or dialogue starts. The same is true of punning newspaper headlines. Approaches include giving the difficult parts in summary form and just using an extract from the original text, or doing activities just with the easy bits like the captions or dialogue.

2) The information can quickly become out of date. This can be a problem both for student, for whom the language might fly out of their heads at the same time as the information gets replaced with something more important. It can also be an issue for the teacher, who might have spent lots of time preparing the pre-teach and comprehension questions only to have to throw the text away after a couple of days. This is mainly a problem for newspaper news stories, so there is no reason why you shouldn't use more long lasting formats like newspaper article, newspaper articles with more analysis, fiction or biography instead.

3) The grammar is not graded

The grading of grammar in a text is usually more difficult to spot and easier to forget about than the grading of vocabulary, but in a graded reader the writers vocabulary. This does not necessarily mean that all the grammar has to be exactly the same as they have already covered in their books, as grammar is easier to understand than procedure and seeing in context for some time before they tackle it in class will make it easier for them to pick up.

5.4 The Role of Newspaper Articles

As a human being, we need to communicate and interact with other people. We need them because they have something that we do not own or they know something that we do not. Sometimes, we are curious about what is happening in the world. To fill our curiosity, we need media. One of the media is a newspaper besides television, radio, magazine and books.

According to Sorlin, (1994:5) Newspaper present current issues which are occurring at present. It is report president election, international or national news, sport competition, gossips about famous people, weather forecast and so on. Its also are equipped by posters, diagrams, charts and photos which could be seen by the reader.

5.5 Using Newspaper in Classroom

Newspaper have been used in American classroom for many years and have proven for their worth as an educational tool. Using newspaper in teaching English is effective because their contents motivate learning and develop language skill (de Roche, 1983:34). Nowadays, suggestion have been made to use newspaper as an instructional tool to teach English as a second language, but few authors have emphasized the use of both the first and the second language newspaper (Olivers, 1994:11).

The use of English language newspaper as well as mother tongue newspaper is an efficient and effective way to educate bilingual people. The mother tongue newspapers help them to reinforce and develop further their mother tongue skill and the English language



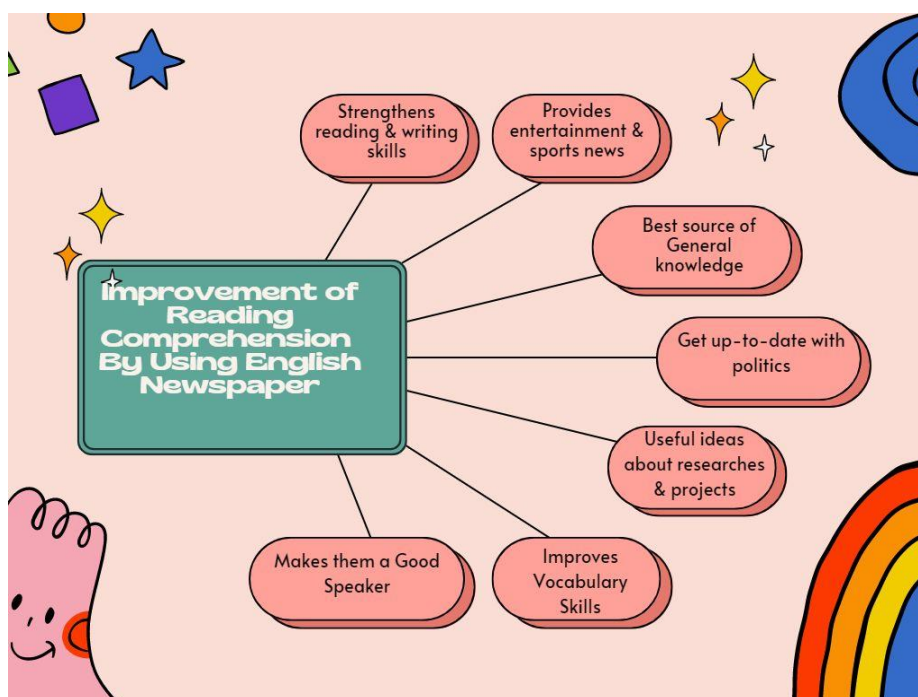
newspaper facilitates the acquisition of the new language in a print context that is different from other school resources.

By using the English language Newspapers, teachers can provide their student with features that other printed material cannot match (Olivares, 1993:45). The English newspaper deal with the present reality of the outside world. It is instructional materials that represent that reality here and now (The courier Journal, 1965:33). Since it presents students' with a second language that comes alive through headlines, articles, advertisement, and pictures, it inevitable will contain something of interest for every students (ANPAF, 1990:1). As an instructional devise, English newspaper can also be used to help students learn English through the content of the subject matter areas.

Mathematics problems in English, science and social studies issues, home economics, physical education, business information, survival skill, and other subjects can be found in the newspapers daily (Kossack, 1988:11). Working in these subject areas, language minority students' will deal not only with the content of those subjects but also with a second language that is real and relevant. It is the day today language of mainstream population.

Knowledge from the Study

There are many benefits of reading newspaper students, it is a healthy activity for everyone as it enhances our knowledge, vocabulary, reading skills and a lot more. Newspaper is the most important part of our lives as it provides information about what is happening around us and around the globe. Everyone should start reading newspapers, especially students.



1. Strengthens reading & writing skills

These are the best source of providing good reading ability as it makes readers active learners. Reading newspaper is a healthy activity for every individual & especially for students. As the time passes, they get full command on reading and vocabulary.

Newspaper reading also improves writing & reading skills of an individual as many difficult words come while reading a passage that might confuse a reader. Making a habit of reading newspaper daily increases the chances of better reading with good vocabulary.

2. Provides entertainment & sports news

A no. of sporting events is organized from time to time in the country & across the nations. One can get all information about the list of players, which game is going on currently, medals tally, players ranking, who won which medal, the winners & the competitors, etc. News about the economic condition of a country, games & sports, trade, commerce & entertainment can be gained from newspapers.

In short, newspaper gives us worldwide information.

3. Best source of General knowledge

Knowledge coupled with a good expression sets a stage of success in any examination or competition in life. Students easily get course related information through newspapers about recent discoveries & latest inventions. These are a treasure love of information for students at the time of preparation of competitions, contests & quiz shows. With these, they can get unique ideas about what is going on at present & what is in trend nowadays.

4. Get up-to-date with politics

Man is a social animal. In order to live peacefully & comfortably in society, he needs to remain updated about what all is going on across the globe while sitting at a corner of house. Reading newspaper enables us to remain well-informed about anything. It will be easy for those who ready daily to their extent. Newspaper carries information about politics, sports, general affairs & lot more.

5. Useful ideas about researches & projects

In schools & colleges, students have to undergo a lot of researches & to deal with their school projects. And for this, they need to search for various ideas, creations & a better design. Thus, a newspaper is a handy source of getting multiple topics as almost recent searches are discussed in it.

Not only ideas but news about many discoveries, launches & establishments are also published in newspapers there are really helpful in covering up projects.

6. Improves Vocabulary Skills

At one page of newspaper, there comes a section where so many useful games like Sudoku, puzzles, riddles, tongue twisters, etc are published. These types of mind games help in improving the vocabulary skills of children.



Daily reading of newspapers enhances the vocabulary of students as they learn different words from there. They can note them down with their meanings. As good vocabulary helps in writing good essays & assignments in examinations.

7. Makes them a Good Speaker

Students get information about various topics with the help of newspaper. They become a good orator which further helps in taking active part in debates, speeches & discussions. When a student possesses knowledge about different topics, he/ she can be able to speak without any hesitation in front of others. This ultimately increases his/ her level of confidence.

Newspaper reading as a habit can be a tricky activity for those who don't know how to read. While thinking to learn a new language, there's no other better option than to take a help of newspaper as it comes in different languages in different cities according to the mother tongue of the people living there.

Reading newspaper daily is really a good habit that provides a great sense of educational value. It carries a lot of information about the happenings in the world, what all is going on in the country, town & nearby areas. In fact, we get all necessary-related information through the means of newspaper.

Therefore, these are the benefits of newspaper reading for students. One should make a habit of reading newspaper daily in the morning while having a cup of tea or coffee.

Conclusion

Reading newspaper is a good habit that can provide a great sense of educational value. It carries information about politics, economy, entertainment, sports, business, industry, trade and commerce. With this habit, it will not only enhance your knowledge about general information but it will likewise improve your language skills and vocabulary. Many people have habits of reading daily newspapers that their days seem incomplete without taking hold of early morning newspapers. Here are some of the benefits that you can get by reading daily newspapers:

- Newspapers carry the news of the world.
- Newspapers provide information and general knowledge.
- Newspapers provide news about a country's economic situation, sports, games, entertainment, trade and commerce.
- Reading newspaper makes a good habit and it is already part of the modern life. This habit will widen your outlook and will enrich your knowledge.
- Reading newspaper makes you well informed. It enables you to take part in every discussion pertaining to the world's current events.
- Reading newspapers will improve your knowledge in general and it will be easy for you to relate to other people who often talks about current events and politics.
- Through newspapers, you will have a clear idea and understanding of what is happening in your country and the whole world.

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