

Teaching strategic reading: 5 Ws and How

What are the 5 Ws and How?

- The 5 Ws — Who, What, When, Where, Why — and How are questions whose answers are considered basic in understanding a reading text.

Why is the strategy important? .

- The six questions help to focus on the main idea, significant details, and their relationship to each other.
- They provide a visual framework that readers can use to decide what information is important.

Teaching learners how to use the strategy

- Explain why it is important to pay attention to details when you read.
- Read the questions in the graphic organizer and explain that you are going to be looking for the answers to the questions in the reading.
- Demonstrate how to write the answers on the graphic organizer.

How to help your learners use the strategy

- Have learners read the text and then work with partners to complete the chart. Together they must decide on answers to each of the questions. In order to do this, it may be necessary to read the passage several times. Learners should be encouraged to discuss possible answers among themselves.
- The information on the chart can be used to retell the reading orally or in writing.

Note

- ☞ The “how” question can sometimes be covered by “what,” “where,” or “when.”
- ☞ Each question must be answered with a fact.
- ☞ None of the questions can be answered by a simple “yes” or “no.”