Unit 6: Higher Education – OT, PT, SLT at University

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6.1 Differences between School and University

What are the difference between school and university?

North American and British universities typically give their newly arrived first year students (“fresher”) advice on how university life is different from their experience at school. Here is some of this advice:

- students are responsible for their own time management
- students must be able to set priorities
- students spend less time in class each week and often have hours between classes
- professors expect you to initiate contact if you have questions or need assistance
- professors expect you to read the books on the reading list for their seminars
- professors may not summarize main points on the board

Questions

1. Do you agree or disagree with the individual points mentioned? What else can you think of?
2. In your opinion, what are essential study skills for students?

6.2 Study Skills: Academic Reading

Exercise

Experience readers employ various specialist skills when reading English-language academic texts. These skills are crucial to their success at understanding the content and contribute to improving their overall competence in English. The following tips are combined with questions to help you reflect on your own reading techniques. You can answer these questions on your own or discuss them with fellow students. If you don’t use a specific text in class, choose your own English-language academic text to test the following strategies.

1. Preparation
Make sure that you have enough time and that you are in the right mood to read an academic text.

1a. Do you know how much time you need to read one page written in academic English? If not, test yourself and find out!
1b. Which mood or atmosphere do you need to be able to concentrate on an academic text?

Make sure you have all the necessary reference materials at hand.

1c. In your experience, which reference materials are useful for reading an English-language academic text? Make a list for future reference.

2. First Encounter with the Text
Prediction makes your reading faster and more effective. Efficient readers predict what they are going to read and then check how the content of the text matches up to these predictions. Predictions change as more information is received from the text. As a starting point, readers must think of the right questions to ask the text and themselves.

Read with a purpose and understand the purpose of different texts.

Interact with the text to draw connections to your own background knowledge.