

How Latin Aids English Reading Comprehension

According to the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) . . . English reading comprehension ability depends upon:

- Knowledge of vocabulary
- Ability to understand written text
- Ability to locate or recall information in a written text
- Ability to integrate and interpret information in a text:
 - Make comparisons
 - Explain character motivation
 - Examine relations of ideas across the text
- Ability to critique and evaluate what is read:
 - Examine text from numerous perspectives
 - Evaluate overall quality of text
 - Evaluate effectiveness of particular aspects of the text

Latin study provides:

- Knowledge of Latin vocabulary: prefixes (prepositions)
word roots
- Knowledge of derivatives from Latin in English:
prefixes
word roots
suffixes
- Knowledge of parts of speech
- Understanding of how words work together in sentences
- Practice reading Latin sentences
- Practice comprehending dependent clauses
- Practice paraphrasing Latin sentences and paragraphs in English
- Interpretation of Latin sentences and paragraphs in historical context and in relation to today's world
- Identification of characters and their personality traits
- Plot analysis
- Background information about ancient world and mythology

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<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard>