

## How to Study a Science Text

Science texts can be hard to study because their vocabulary is unfamiliar and they combine math equations, figures, tables, and text all on one page. Science texts require reading in a way we are unaccustomed to. Breaking the process down into steps that require similar thought patterns and then combining reading the whole text makes the process easier.

Always keep a piece of paper beside you to write on when you read anything that you must study or is interesting to you. Reading, then writing, then applying an idea are tools for learning. You are fooling yourself if you think you can read something once and understand it well enough to apply it. It is not learned if you cannot apply it or explain it clearly in your own words.

1. Write down the Symbols and Abbreviations and the Key Concepts. This will begin to make the vocabulary understandable. (Key concepts can be found in the Chapter title and section headings.)
2. Write down the Key Terms. This is another vocabulary and concept builder.
3. Read the Chapter Summary. This is also a vocabulary builder, as it won't make sense yet, but it will give you an idea of what you will be studying and will tell you what main ideas to look for.
4. Study each Figure in the chapter. These are pictures with a little bit of text. Look at the picture and read the text. Then, study the picture and be able to explain to someone else each point within the figure. Reread the figure's text.
5. Study each Table. Copy the table. You will either need to memorize the table or be familiar with the numbers it contains so you will know how to use it later. Copying the table forces you to become familiar with it.
6. Read one section of text, quickly. Then reread it slowly, writing down each equation and vocabulary word in bold print. As you read an equation or bold print word, do not move on until you understand it. People like to suggest that some books or teachers are lousy when actually the student is lazy. You may have to refer to the Table of Contents or Index to review some previous material or you may have to search out nearby Figures or Tables for information, but the information will be there 99% of the time.
7. Do all the exercises in the section you just studied to see if you can apply what you have learned. If they are not all correct, repeat step 6 and determine if you need to review a previous chapter.
8. Repeat step 6 and 7 for all other sections.
9. Complete Study Guide.
10. Reread the Chapter Summary. If this is not easy to read, repeat the study of each concept you do not understand.
11. Review the whole chapter; take a timed test. Be sure to explain to someone what you learned.