

## Glossing: An Invaluable Aid to Reading Comprehension

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### **Abstract**

From the learner's perspective, the presence of lexically difficult items in a reading text is the chief factor that influences its readability and comprehension. The focus of this paper is on the sources of lexical difficulty that learners of English confront when reading a story, etc. in their prescribed textbook and how an accompanying glossary can ease understanding. Reading texts forms a staple part of Indian school and college teaching materials, and they almost always contain lexical items that are either unfamiliar or difficult. Based on the premise that lexical problems cannot be left to take care of themselves, the materials developer concerned deploys glossing as an editorial instrument to aid the process of comprehension.

**Keywords:** glossing, words, lexical items, reading comprehension, materials developer

### **Introduction**

Preparing a glossary for a textbook remains an underestimated editorial task, even for seasoned materials developers. Glossing requires skill, care, precision, sensitivity to text, and contextual awareness.

Lexical, syntactic, organizational, conceptual, and text-type factors influence readability and comprehension. This paper will focus on sources of lexical difficulty that learners of English face when processing a reading text in their coursebook and how an accompanying glossary can ease understanding. In Indian school and college textbooks, readings from different print genres are the main tools for developing reading