

FIRST (FCE): READING

Reading tasks are often set as homework or as an end-of-lesson activity. Choose texts that are the same length as those that the students are going to read in the First (FCE) exam.

Task: Try as a task blanking out unfamiliar words in a text and see if students can guess from the context what the words might be. Then give the students the completed text and have a class discussion on the words they had chosen. This is a great way of getting students to guess meaning from context. It also helps to build up new vocabulary on a particular topic.

Task: Responding to a text. Once again choose a text of approximately the length of a passage in the exam and ask the candidates to read this as homework. When reviewing the homework assignment, write on the board some headings e.g. *Something that surprised me, Something that interested me, Something I'm not sure about, Something that I agree/disagree with in the passage*. Ask the student to write a sentence for each of the headings with their own responses to the text. Then get one or two students to read out their completed sentences. This can then move onto a class discussion. A further benefit of this task is that it highlights a topic for vocabulary acquisition.

Task: Candidate presentation on a text. At least twice a week, give a couple of candidates a text on a selected topic and ask them to produce a précis and plan for a presentation of the text. This is good for topic development and could lead onto a writing or vocabulary-learning exercise.