

Solve Problems

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Do you ever get confused when you're reading? Active reading can help you solve those problems. First, stop and figure out *why* you're confused:

- **Vocabulary:** Is there an unfamiliar word or phrase? Or is a word or phrase you know being used in a new way?
- **Connections:** Is it hard to see how sections and ideas fit together?
- **Details:** Did you lose track of the details, or forget key information?

Solve If you get confused when you're reading, stop right there and mark a ? in your notes. That makes it easy to find the spot and solve the problem when you come back to it.

Once you know what's confusing you, you can try to solve the problem. The chart below lists easy-to-use "Fix-up" strategies. With practice, using them to solve problems will come naturally.

Fix-up	What To Do	Try It...
<i>Read Again</i>	Reread the section that confuses you.	When you first get confused.
<i>Read Ahead</i>	Keep reading. Look ahead for your answer.	With <i>Vocabulary</i> and <i>Connections</i> .
<i>Pace Yourself</i>	Read slower in harder sections and quicker in easier ones.	Anywhere.
<i>Break It Down</i>	Break unfamiliar words into their parts. Rephrase complicated sentences.	Anywhere.
<i>Look for Connections</i>	Look for patterns and connections. How are things similar, different, or related? "How does one thing cause another?"	With <i>Connections</i> and <i>Details</i> .
<i>Imagine It</i>	Use the details in the passage to draw a picture in your head.	With <i>Connections</i> and <i>Details</i> .
<i>Draw It</i>	Sketch out a quick picture, chart, or graph.	With <i>Connections</i> and <i>Details</i> .
<i>Use What You Know</i>	Use a similar word or facts you already know about the topic to make sense of things.	Anywhere.



Connections Think about a time when something you read confused you. How did you figure it out? Write how you solved the problem.

Example

Reread this section of "The Oldest Noodles in the World." In the space provided, Ben noted where he had problems understanding the passage. Think about what *Fix-ups* might solve them.

Ben's Problems

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The Oldest Noodles in the World

Lajia was gone, but fragments of the village remained, hidden beneath the ground. The village stayed buried until modern scientists unearthed its ruins. As these **archaeologists** dug, they uncovered bits and pieces of the village life that had been interrupted by the disasters. Among these bits and pieces was a very interesting bowl.

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Ancient Noodles

The bowl was upside down beneath 10 feet of clay and silt. When the archaeologists turned it over, they found a serving of noodles made of a grain called **millet**. It was probably a lunch or dinner that someone never got a chance to eat.

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The most shocking part of the discovery was that the noodles survived for so long. Anything as fragile as noodles should have decayed and disappeared. But the sediment from the flood had formed an airtight seal around the bowl. Trapped, the noodles were preserved for 4,000 years.

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Ben had three problems to solve in this section of "The Oldest Noodles in the World."

First, he had a *Vocabulary* problem. Ben wasn't sure what "fragments of the village" meant. So he tried the *Fix-up* strategy *Read Ahead*. The paragraph goes on to describe what was found of the village as "ruins" and "bits and pieces." This helps him see that "fragments" means "parts."

Next, Ben had a *Connections* problem. He was confused about why the noodles weren't eaten. He tried *Using What He Knows* about times he's had to rush through or skip a meal. He realized that the author wanted to show how quickly Lajia was buried. It happened so suddenly that someone made lunch but had no time to eat it.

Finally, Ben had a *Details* problem. He found the description of how the noodles were preserved under the bowl unclear. He used the *Imagine It* Fix-up to draw a diagram in his mind. The turned-over bowl lay flat and was then packed all around with mud. It was like being sealed in a jar.