Four Levels of Reading

Students should be proficient in the four levels of reading – Careful Reading, Usual Reading, Accelerated Reading, and Selective Reading.

1. **Careful Reading** may also be described as critical, analytical or thoughtful to detail, reflective, and evaluative. This type of reading is usually employed in studying or reading thought-provoking material.

2. **Usual Reading**, the most habitual manner of reading, applies in a wide variety of situations—reading newspaper articles, novels, or magazines in which the reader usually does not have a clearly defined purpose that demands either detailed comprehension or rapid completion.

3. **Accelerated Reading** is the type of reading most often attempted when time is limited. The reader is alert, reads aggressively, and attempts to cover material sacrificing comprehension. To do this, the reader must, of course, expend extra energy.

4. **Selective Reading**, in order to benefit from selective reading, students should be proficient in the first three levels of reading. Skimming and scanning is that type of reading in which the reader locates and deals with only those parts of the content that serve their purposes. Skimming and scanning are alike in that the reader alternates in the following ways:
   a) **Scanning**: in scanning, the reader has a specific question in their mind or information that is needed. The reader goes to the content and searches through it until the information is found.
   b) **Skimming**: in skimming, the reader passes quickly through an article or chapter to get a general impression of the whole. A person might preview-skim before reading material more carefully. This type of skimming, called surveying by many people is often used in studying and in reference work. A general impression is sufficient. The reader does not feel the need to read the material previously read, going back over material to study for a test or to prepare a report.

Source: Gavilan College Reading Lab Improving Reading Skills