

How to Read the Textbook

These are just a few suggestions:

1. Read it on a regularly timed basis; don't wait until the last minute to read everything.
2. Don't just read it, **work** it. You need to fill in the details as you go along.
3. When reading the examples you should realize that there are some steps that are left out. You should fill in those steps.
4. If the book says that some result follows from some previous results, try to work out that connection.
5. Draw pictures that illustrate the ideas that are being presented.
6. Think about how the material relates to, is similar to, or is unlike other material, both in the book being read and in other books/courses.
7. Compare the book's presentation of a topic to the professor's presentation: How are they similar? How are they different?
8. After reading a chapter/section at a detailed level, go back and read it at a high level and draw a graphic that maps out the interconnections between the main points covered: What implies what? How are things connected? Etc.