

Talking to the Text

Reading a Statistics textbook can be challenging. There may be words you don't know, notation you have never seen, and the explanations may be difficult to understand. This exercise is designed to help everyone think about what things we do when we are reading that help us and is a good strategy to help you comprehend what you read. Talking to, even talking back to, your textbook is a good habit to get into.

It can be done aloud, in your head, or in the margins of what you are reading. When trying this technique for the first time you should write a LOT. As it becomes more natural you can do most of your talking with the voice in your head.

Things to be doing while “talking to the text”:

- make predictions
- visualize what is going on
- note any questions you have
- make connections (mathematical/statistical and real life)
- note what confused you
- indicate what needs to be reread
- summarize what you just read

As you read, be aware of what is going on in your head, what you are thinking, and write those things down next what you are reading.