







## Skill 1 Help: Annotating Text

*annotate* – (v.) add notes (to a text or diagram) giving explanation or comment

**Annotating text** is an important reading skill. It helps passive readers (readers who do the act of reading without absorbing information) become active readers (readers who comprehend and question text).

Some people call this “reading with a pencil” because you always have a pencil in hand ready to take notes while annotating text.

Here are sample annotation symbols that can be used:

SYMBOL	MEANING
	This is important
<u>underline</u>	Key word or detail
	I understand this question/idea
	Unfamiliar word
	I don't understand...
	That's surprising or new info!
	I made a connection.
Words & Comments	“I'm thinking...”

Let's take a look at a sample annotated text.

Like in the Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer movie!

! हिममानव, lit. "mountain man") is an ape-like cryptid taller than an average human that is said to inhabit the Himalayan region of Nepal and Tibet. The names Yeti and *Meh-Teh* are commonly used by the people indigenous to the region, and are part of their history and mythology. Stories of the Yeti first emerged as a facet of Western popular culture? in the 19th century.

The scientific community generally regards the Yeti as a legend, given the lack of conclusive evidence, but it remains one of the most famous creatures of cryptozoology. Analysis of samples associated with claimed yetis found a sequence of mitochondrial DNA that matched a sample from an ancient polar bear jawbone found in Norway\*, that dates back to between 40,000 and 120,000 years ago."

Source: [www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com)

As the reader went through the text, he annotated it with symbols. By looking at these symbols, we can tell that the reader read thoroughly and understood many parts of the reading, while some things like unfamiliar words may have caused him trouble.

You can practice annotation skills by annotating any text while reading!

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