

# Solve Problems

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Do you ever get confused by something you're reading? By being an active reader, you can solve those problems. First, stop and figure out *why* you're confused:

- **Vocabulary:** Is there a new word? A familiar word that is used in a new way?
- **Connections:** Are you having trouble fitting sections and ideas together?
- **Details:** Did you lose track of the details and forget key information?

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

Once you know what the problem is, you can try to solve it. Here are a few easy-to-use “Fix-up” strategies. With practice, using them to solve problems will come naturally.

Fix-up	What To Do	Try It...
<i>Pace Yourself</i>	Slow down when a section is confusing; read easier sections more quickly.	Anywhere
<i>Read Again</i>	Reread the confusing section.	As soon as you get confused
<i>Read Ahead</i>	Read further ahead. Look for context or information that answers your questions.	When <i>Vocabulary</i> or <i>Connections</i> are confusing.
<i>Look for Connections</i>	Look for patterns and connections. How are things similar, different, or related?	When <i>Details</i> or <i>Connections</i> are confusing.
<i>Break It Down</i>	Break unfamiliar or confusing words, phrases, or sentences into smaller parts.	Any time something you read is confusing
<i>Imagine It</i>	Use the details in the passage to create a clear picture in your head.	When <i>Details</i> or <i>Connections</i> are confusing.
<i>Draw It</i>	Sketch a picture, list, or diagram to make ideas and details more clear.	When <i>Details</i> or <i>Connections</i> are confusing.
<i>Use What You Know</i>	Use words or facts you already know to make sense of what you're reading.	Any time something you read is confusing



**Connections** Think about a time you got confused by something you were reading. How did you figure it out? Write how you solved the problem.

## Example

Reread this section of “Inventing Photography.” In the space provided, Karin noted where she had problems understanding the passage. Think about what Fix-up strategies might solve them.

### Karin’s Problems

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## Inventing Photography

Photography surrounds us. Magazines, posters, and billboards are filled with glossy photos. Your family might have an album of special snapshots. Disposable cameras made of cardboard and plastic can be found in the supermarket checkout line. Without much exaggeration, you could say that everyone is a photographer—or at least can be one.

Of course, photography wasn’t always around. Like every other technology, it had to be invented. And in 1826, a man named Joseph Nicéphore Niépce did just that.

### Early Fleeting Images

Before there was photography, there was a form of camera called a *camera obscura*. This device was basically a box with a single small lens to let in light. Inside, the light reproduced an image of whatever was in front of the box. An artist might trace the outlines to make a painting. But the image only lasted as long as everything stayed in place; there was nothing inside the *camera obscura* that could catch and hold that picture.

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Karin had three problems to solve in this section of “Inventing Photography.”

First, Karin had a *Connections* problem. She wasn’t sure why the author talks about magazines, family albums, and disposable cameras. With the Fix-up strategy *Use What You Know*, she realized the author is trying to show how commonplace photography is today.

Next, Karin had a *Details* problem with the description of how a *camera obscura* works. She used the *Imagine It* Fix-up to make a diagram in her mind. Imagining a diagram like the one on page 8 helped her see how the camera reproduces images.

Finally, Karin could see it’s important that a *camera obscura* couldn’t hold a picture—but she wasn’t sure *what* you could do to solve the problem. So she tried to *Read Ahead* to solve the *Connections* problem. Using this Fix-up, she figured out that making a lasting image was the big problem the inventors of photography had to solve.