

Modern textbooks, whether physical or digital, employ a number of features to make their use more accessible to the reader. You can improve your reading experience by becoming familiar with these important features.

Glossary of important terms – a concise, abbreviated dictionary of words the authors feel may not be understood by the reader. The definitions are easy to find and do not include unnecessary alternative meanings.

Learning/Chapter objectives – a series of goals set out by the authors to show the readers exactly what they will learn about in each chapter. They should be reviewed before reading a chapter, and will help eliminate the concern readers often have about missing something important in a chapter.

Summary/Review questions/Study guide – a number of review questions for readers to answer and check their understanding of information in the chapter. It is recommended that readers begin by reviewing these questions before reading the chapter, so they can actively search for the answers while reading.

Margin guides/tips/facts – Though not integral to understanding a concept or information in a chapter, these ‘tidbits’ often contain relevant and interesting points for the reader to consider, attempt fill in gaps in knowledge, or answer common questions.

Additional review/Online resources – There may be topics read about in a chapter that a reader may find particularly interesting or engaging. Authors will often provide additional resources for their readers to investigate further into a topic when desired.