“4 against the text!”

This method should help you to improve your reading ability. It only works when you talk about the text. So use the opportunity and talk English!!!

There are 4 strategies to work with the text:
1) Predicting (Vorhersagen)
2) Generating questions (Fragenstellen an den Text - Vokabeln)
3) Clarifying (Klären von Unklarheiten - Inhalt)
4) Summarizing (Zusammenfassen)

And this is how it works:

1. Person number 1 predicts what the text / the paragraph is about.
2. Everybody reads the paragraph quietly and underlines words or phrases he doesn’t understand with a coloured pen and ruler. You can also use “?” for words you don’t understand or “!” for words which are important.
3. Person number 2 asks for words or phrases he doesn’t understand. If nobody knows the answer you have to look up the meaning in a dictionary.
4. Person number 3 asks questions about the content, the meaning of the text.
5. Person number 4 summarizes the text.
6. Now person number 1 starts again and you start with the procedure again until you have read the whole text.

Help for person number 1 - predicting:

Task: Predict what the text is about in 1 or 2 sentences.

- I think this paragraph / text is about ...
- In my opinion this paragraph / text is about ...
- I think this paragraph / text deals with ...
- In my opinion the author wants to tell us ...
- I assume that the paragraph / text is about ...
- I suppose / imagine that the paragraph / text is about ...
- ...

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Help for person number 2 - generating questions:

Task: Ask questions about words or phrases you don’t understand.
- What does … mean in German?
- Does anyone know what … means?
- Do you know the meaning of …?
- I have no idea what … means. Can you look it up in the dictionary, please?
- Who knows what … means?
- …
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Help for person number 3 - clarifying:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Task: Ask questions about the content / meaning of the text.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- I don’t know what the author means with ...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- I have no clue / no idea what the author wants to tell us with...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- I don’t get the meaning of line(s) ...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- What does ... mean?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Do you know what ... means?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Who is ...? Where is ...? What is ...?</td>
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Help for person number 4 - summarizing:

Task: Summarize what the text is about in 1 or 2 sentences.

- This paragraph / text is about ...
- To summarize, the paragraph / text ...
- To put it in a nutshell, the text / paragraph is about ...
- To conclude, the text / paragraph is about ...
- To come to a conclusion, this paragraph / text ...
- This paragraph / the text deals with...
- ...

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