

Think about the thing that you do every day; your studies, your interests, your job, or the things you do to simply kill some time. Now imagine you are unable to read and write. How would your daily routine change? What things would you no longer be able to do? How would your life be more difficult or less enjoyable? Write about this in your blog.

[Click on this sentence to see a video on the Americans who can't read.](#)

Hopefully, this activity has helped you to see how much of a contribution to the apparently basic skills of reading and writing make to our quality of life. On a day-to-day basis, an inability to read or write will mean that you can't enjoy a book, follow a recipe, or write an email to a friend. But in the long term it will also negatively affect the level of education that is available to you, and, as a result, the kinds of work that you are able to do and the amount of money you are able to earn. This, in turn, might have a negative impact on your ability to lead a healthy lifestyle or to provide support and education to your children. In addition, if a large proportion of your population is illiterate, this will have an effect on your country's economy, meaning there is less money available to provide basic levels of education. And so, the cycle continues.

Fortunately, massive progress has been made in improving literacy rates around the world. Click on the Literary Statistics box for more information.