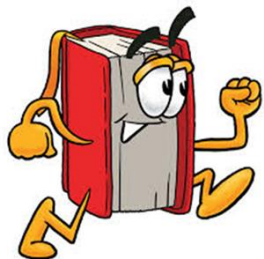




Speed Reading for English and Maths



Increasing reading speed and stamina

What do we mean by speed reading?

- Maintaining a pace of reading that enables readers to cover a passage within a suitable time frame.
- Comprehension is essential.
- Developing reading stamina means helping children be able to read longer passages in less time, whilst understanding the information.
- In addition, it means being able to persevere with longer texts and continue to read at a steady pace without giving up.

Why is it a necessary skill?

- A steady pace of reading can aid comprehension. The longer it takes a child to cover a passage, the harder it can be to understand the text as a whole.
- In particular for Year 6s, coverage of all texts in the reading paper requires a good reading pace – especially text 3.
- Maths papers – pace will be essential.
Arithmetic – 30 minutes
Reasoning paper 2 and 3 – 40 minutes each



Where to start...

Find the child's initial reading rate: -

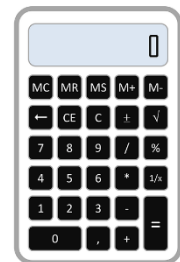
- Give the child a passage of text to read (100 words).
- Note down the amount of words they read accurately.
- Divide this by how many seconds it took the child to read the passage.
- Multiply this by 60.

E.g. Child X read 91 words accurately in 90 seconds.

$$91 \div 90 = 1.011$$

$$1.011 \times 60 = 60.66$$

Reading rate – 61 words per minute (wpm).



Next steps...

Knowing the child's reading rate to begin with, will help monitor progress.

There are a range of strategies that could be used to help children increase their speed of reading.

Speed Reading Tip #1

Scanning Games

- Give children a passage of text suitable for their decoding ability.
- Set them challenges to scan for information in the text.
- You could try:
 - word lists
 - find all the proper nouns
 - find all the words that begin with a certain letter
 - find all the adverbs.
- Can they beat their times? Can they beat their partner?



Speed Reading Tip #2

Quick-fire word recall

- Flashcards (could be high frequency words, wow words, spelling words, etc).
- Computer based word speed challenges (could personalise them by using PPT).
- Timed reading of word lists.
- Snap! Play the card game with children having to read their word as they put the card down and look out for a match.

Speed Reading Tip #3

Poetry/songs/rhymes



- Repetitive nature of songs, rhymes and poems can help children increase their speed.
- Begin with shorter passages and move to longer versions when the reader makes progress.
- Sense of performance can help some readers.

Speed Reading Tip #4

Audio Books

- Encourage children to read along out loud as they listen to an audio book.
- The taped reader will help model a steady reading pace for the child.
- Engaging.



1:1 modelled reading

- Teacher/teaching assistant to read out loud at a brisk pace and encourage the child to read along at the same pace.

Speed Reading Tip #5

Repeated Reading

- Choose a passage of text (100-200 words). Make it slightly challenging for the child.
- Pupil reads the passage aloud. Note down any errors and any other information you find useful (reading rate, etc.).
- Review the reading with the child. Discuss any tricky words or phrases, check comprehension and practise difficult parts.
- Child reads the same passage again.
- Continue the process.

Speed Reading Tip #6

Whole class reading challenge

- A staged reading initiative, which could have a theme to engage children.

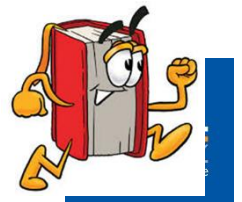
E.g. a running theme

100 – 200 words read accurately = “I’m a sprint reader”

300 – 400 words read accurately = “I’m a middle-distant reader”

500+ words read accurately = “I’m a marathon reader”

- Timings and amount of words would need to be tailored to pupils. Comprehension must be monitored at all times.



Speed Reading Tip #7

Brain Training

- Memory games.
- Interactive games from the app store:
 - Brain Trainer for Kids: Fun Logic Games
 - Brain Jump Pro
 - Conundra
 - Best Brain Teasers

Please note, these have not been tested

Advice for the KS2 Tests

- Make children familiar with the papers and their style.
- Use past papers to complete timed challenges with children. For example, how much of the text can they read in a set time. Can they beat it next time?
- For children who struggle, encourage the use of scanning techniques and repeated reading of smaller passages to answer the “easier” questions.
- Model how to read maths reasoning problems and make notes to keep track of understanding.
- Spend time in lessons looking purely at what reasoning problems mean and how to read them.