

## Speed Reading: Introduction to a Lifetime Skill

- Audience: Incoming Students
- Objective: To provide in the department an introductory talk about speed reading.
- Justification: Speed reading will enhance academic performance of the students.
- Time: 30 Minutes (Highly preferred in the morning)
- Expository Method: Conversational, demonstration, questions and answers.
- Materials: Photocopy of these slides, and the references.
- Equipment: two projectors.
- Reference for teaching style:  
Strategies for International Teaching Assistants by Smith, Meyers, and Burkhalter.  
Training for Dummies by Elaine Biech

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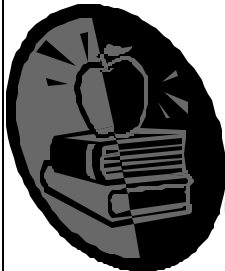
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## Speed Reading: Introduction to a Lifetime Skill

by

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## Speed Reading

- Why do we need speed reading?
  - Better results: GPA
  - Read without buying books
  - Thesis and dissertation
  - Personal time management
  - Productivity in business meetings
  - More leisure time available

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## Introduction to a Lifetime Skill

- 20/80 rule
- Concentration
- Who should begin speed reading?
  - 200 w/m (Kump, 1998)
- Practice/Habit/Skill
- Have a positive attitude and self-motivation

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## Definition



- Letters
- Words
- Sentences
- Meaning/Connotation
- Author-Reader
- Reader-Mind

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## Steps

- Setting goals
- Previewing the material
- The Speed Reading action
- Comprehension
- Analysis
- Actions to avoid
- Actions to pursue



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## Setting Goals

- Environment & posture
- Setting goals at the beginning.
- Constraints
  - A book not of your interest.
  - Difficulty of the subject.
  - Magazines, journal articles, textbooks, internet, business letters, etc.
  - How much do you know about the subject?

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## Previewing



- Index
- Browsing / exploring
- Graphs
- Figures
- Checking progress in the index

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## The Speed Reading Action



- Skimming: searching for meaning or clues to meaning.
- Constant pace
- Hand movement
- Eye movement
- Creating:
  - visual maps
  - links

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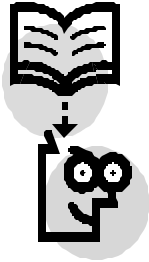
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## Comprehension

- Active reading
  - Skeptical: questioning
  - W words: who, what, when, why, and where.
- Understand and retrieve
- Imagine a movie



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## Framework for Analysis

By Paul & Elder (2002) , Critical Thinking

- Purpose
- Problem
- Facts-Beliefs-Ethical Values
- Assumptions
- Concepts and Theories
- Implications
- Points of views
- Inferences and Conclusions

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## Avoid

- Word by word
- Regression
- Vocalization
- Sub-vocalization: repeating in your mind
- Poor active reading
- A place with distractive noise

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## Pursue

- Better grammar and vocabulary
- Cultivate the Habit
  - Practice make the master!
- Read books about Speed Reading
- Communicate with others the learned techniques

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## Recommended Readings

- [www.Amazon.Com](http://www.Amazon.Com) , [www.Half.com](http://www.Half.com) , [www.BN.com](http://www.BN.com)
- **Breakthrough Rapid Reading**  
by Peter Kump 1998
- **The Photoreading Whole Mind System**  
by Paul R. Scheele
- Keywords in Google
  - Speed reading filetype:pdf
  - Psychology of reading filetype:pdf
  - Define:speed reading

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## How to read a paper in Economics?\*

- Structure of the paper:
  - Kind: New theory, new test, review of a policy
  - Context: location of economic activity, time period, name of the policy, level of the analysis.
  - Subject: trade policy, development, history, Thesis and purpose
  - Research problem
  - Type of model and methods

\*How to read a paper in economics. By Glenn Fox.

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## How to read a paper in Economics?

- Interpretation of the contents:
  - Audience
  - Economic agents
  - Importance
  - Definition of keywords
  - Which research problems were solved?
  - Which research problems remain unsolved?
  - Identification of the main ideas

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## How to read a paper in Economics?

- Criticism of the paper:
  - Author:
    - Misinformed, Uninformed, Illogical, Unclear
  - Incomplete analysis
  - Do I agree with the thesis?
- Follow Up
  - Do I need more background knowledge?
  - Do I need listed references in the paper?
  - How does it relate to other papers?
  - Is this paper related to my research problem?
  - Should I use this paper in my review of literature?

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Questions?

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