

READING ACTIVITY

READING NEWSPAPERS* (An effective strategy)

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- Objective** : Reading a maximum number of news stories (articles) with a minimum amount of time by being familiar with the journalistic practices such as the inverted pyramid style and the page layout.
- Participation** : Individual.
- Material** : Any daily. (The Hindu, The Times of India, The New Indian Express, Deccan Chronicle)
- Preparation** : Reading primarily the headline, the lead and one or two paragraphs of a news story and trying to read the entire line in a column in a single glance.
- Procedure** : One should read the columns in a newspaper vertically, instead of the usual practice of moving the eyes from right to left.

*(Every page in a newspaper, unlike other texts, is divided into 5/6/7/8 columns with approximately 7/6/5/4 words respectively in each line. A single eye span should be able to absorb all the words in a line. Although the number of columns varies in different pages of a newspaper most pages have 8 columns with 4 words in a line and reading 4 words in single glance wouldn't pose a serious challenge. Even if it does, with **eye training** one could overcome it and transfer this skill to other columns with more number of words.)*

One could cease to read a news story after quickly glancing through the headline and the first two or three paragraphs.

*(Newspapers universally follow the **inverted pyramid style** – organizing the details/any data according to their order of importance. Headlines announce all the key details of the news and the first paragraph generally answers the 5W's and the H (who, what, where, when, why and how) and the next one or two paragraphs give all the other significant details about the happening. Hence, a reader can get all the necessary details without reading any further.)*

In case a news story is of importance and interest to a reader he could go through it in its entirety but they are not many in number on any given day.

(Several research studies have established that most of the adults daily spend just about 10 minutes on an average reading a newspaper. So readers mostly glance