READING ACTIVITY

READING PULP FICTION* (Speed Reading)

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Objective	:	To enable readers to speed-read and keep on increasing their speed to their maximal level.
Participation	:	Individual
Material	:	Any novel broadly belonging to the category of pulp fiction. (Sidney Sheldon's **If Tomorrow Comes, Tell Me Your Dreams, The Stars Shine Down**/ other novelists, viz. Stephen King, Robert Ludlum, Jeffrey Archer and so on.)
Preparation	:	After benchmarking one's speed, making conscious efforts to gradually increase the speed of reading.

(Procedure:

- Choose a novel of your choice and set a time limit – 10 minutes – and start reading it at your natural pace, avoiding the tendency to skim. Find out how much you have read in 10 minutes.
  - o *To start with, count the number of words in 3 complete lines in a page and divide it by 3 to get the number of words in a line on an average.*
  - o *Count the number of lines in a page and multiply it by the number of words in a line to get the total number of words in a page.*
  - o *Check out the number of pages you have read in 10 minutes and calculate the total number of words you have read by multiplying with the number of words in a page and divide it by 10 to get the number of words you read per minute. Reading speed is referred to as WPM.*
  - o *Benchmarking reading speed is the first vital step to increase one's speed.*

- For the next 10 minutes continue reading from where you have left with the decision to speed-read but not resorting to skimming.
  - ➢ *Follow the same procedure as described earlier to figure out the number of words you have read per minute. If there is an increase in your speed, find out the difference in terms of number of words.*
  - ➢ *Continue to follow the same practice for the next 10 minutes. The same procedure has to be followed repeatedly and regularly over a period of time until one reaches one's maximum level. 250 WPM is considered fairly a good speed in ESL context.*

- Speed reading is not at the cost of comprehension as they have to go hand in hand. So, one has to constantly self-check the level of comprehension while reading. In case the comprehension is low, one has to slow down the speed. Ideally one should aim at 100 percent comprehension for reading to be purposeful. *There are readers who could read up to 2000 WPM with 50% or more comprehension. The world champion, Anne Jones, reads 4,700 WPM with 67% comprehension. Hence, there is a scope to keep on increasing one's speed with practice. The only way to increase one's speed is **practice, practice and more practice.***

Learning Outcomes:
1) Learners realize that only with constant practice they can increase their reading speed as is the case with any skill.
2) Learners understand that with speed reading they can also enhance their ability to comprehend faster.

Further activity:
Any text (not confined only to fiction) that one reads they should attempt to read it faster as this is a transferable skill.

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Pulp fiction: A literary work whose content is produced by the imagination and is not necessarily based on facts. It also refers to fiction dealing with lurid or sensational subjects, often printed on rough, low-quality paper.