SPEED READING TIPS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

Amy Nuetzman
University Teaching and Learning Center
68 PLC, (541) 346-3226, http://tlc.uoregon.edu
WHAT MAKES READING SLOW?

The Material:

- Abstract/technical information
- High concept load
- Difficult vocabulary
- Complex syntax
WHAT MAKES READING SLOW?

The Approach:

- Lack of schema
- External distractions
- Internal distractions
- Subvocalization
- Irregular eye motion
- Limited eye span
What is my reading rate?

- avg words per line
- $x$ lines read
- $\div$ by minutes read
- $=$ wpm
What is “average”? 

- 250 wpm (or 150 - 400 wpm)
- Varies by reader, reading material, and reading situation
How can I speed up?

- Intention
- Context
- Study skills
- Physical techniques
- Drills and practice
**Reading Time**

- Clear starting and stopping times
- Short sessions
- Breaks
- “Best” hours
READING PLACE

- Consistency
- Primary function
- Positive features
- Few distractions
READING PROCESS

- Objectives and strategies

- SQ3R
  - Survey, Question, Read, Review, Recite
HAND PACING

- Physical involvement
- Regular motion
- Easy monitoring
“Whole” Reading

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Phrase Reading

- Eye span
- Brushing vs. tapping motion
- Vertical reading
LIMITING THE “VOICE”

- Keywords
- Visualization
- Paraphrase
- Mental white noise
Quick Drills

- **Comfortable** speed (comp. = 80-100%)
- **Double** speed (40-50% comp.)
- **Triple** speed (0% comp.)
- **New comfortable** speed
ONGOING PRACTICE

- 3-minutes at triple speed
- 6-minutes at double speed
- 1-minute at comfortable speed
- 10-minute sustained comfortable reading
APPLICATION

- Research
  - Finding sources
  - Finding relevant content

- Journals

- Theory

- Fiction

- Other
RESOURCES

- *How to Be a Rapid Reader* by Kathryn Redway
- *10 Days to Faster Reading* by Abby Marks-Beale
- *The Complete Idiot’s Guide to Speed Reading* by Abby Marks-Beale
- *Breakthrough Rapid Reading* by Peter Kump
QUESTIONS?