Reading As A Skill

General Tips

- Read for ideas, not words.
- Maintain interest in material by questioning beforehand.
- Use aids to comprehension that are furnished, such as charts, graphs, table of contents, main headings, italics, bold-faced type, summary statements, etc.
- Set limits for reading.
- Practice flexibility in rate according to purpose for reading.
- Be sensitive to new vocabulary words.
- Escape distractions as much as possible.
- Read critically, examining the author’s motives.
- Try to enjoy reading – consider its value to you.
- Read always with a purpose. Know what your comprehension goals are.
- Avoid head-moving, finger-following, vocalizing and other rhythmic activities that will slow you down.
- Avoid re-reading previous words or sentences.
- Avoid reading passively, spend some effort – think of it as an active task, which requires more than passive receptivity on your part.
- Avoid reading only slow, difficult material. Read enough easy material to maintain rate flexibility.

REMEMBER: SURVEY – QUESTION – READ – RECITE – REVIEW

Suggestions For Continuing Reading Improvement

You have developed some new, efficient reading habits to replace ineffective ones. Unfortunately, now habit is ever completely removed. When you are tired or under tension, the old habits may crop up again. You may find yourself forming words with your lips, daydreaming and carrying on unrelated activities such as pencil-chewing and button-twisting.

In order to build in your new habits so that they may compete successfully with the old, you must continue to practice periodically. This does not mean that you will slip back to the level at which you were reading before the course. It was found at the university of Michigan that students not only maintained their gains but also increased them during a one-year period following their improvement program. It should be remembered, however, that those students read four to six hours a day.
A simple, definite procedure, followed conscientiously, will allow you to continue your growth through reading.
1. Select for regular practice:
   a. one feature of your daily paper (a columnist, the lead story on the front page, editorial, etc.)
   b. one section of a weekly news magazine (government, sports, religion, education, etc.)
   c. one book each month

2. Determine the usual length of the material you choose (newsprint runs about 40 words per inch). Compute your rate by the usual formula (words/minute).

3. Refresh yourself time to time on the principles of good reading, concentration, purpose, selectivity in reading, determination of organization.

4. Continue Survey Q3R on important materials until they method is followed spontaneously. Some steps will drop out when they are no longer necessary. Efficient learning becomes relatively automatic when the learning method has been secured.

Remember: There is more to reading than improving your speed, although that is important and helpful. Continue to work on such skills as skimming, reading critically, watching bias, and expanding your vocabulary constantly. Make a special effort to select more and more difficult reading material as your proficiency increases. Know that they day will come when you will not consciously give attention to training special skills because they will have become habitual by that time, and your tastes for reading will change, so that you will make selections that today you would not deliberately use for leisure reading.