READING REMINDER BOOKMARKS

Copy these on different colors of paper, cut them out, and distribute them to your students to remind them how best to read in a new language.

READING REMINDER BOOKMARK

Don't Read a Single Word!
BryceHedstrom.Com

The best advice to help you learn to read in a new language is this: ***Don't read a single word.*** Many language students immediately stop to look in a dictionary when they come across a new word, but it may be best to just keep on reading. Read whole paragraphs, whole chapters. Read for ideas. Read for meaning. Don't dissect every word.

Context

The context alone will often give you clues about the meaning of an unknown word. The words you know will help you to understand the new ones. If you just keep reading to get the big picture you will often be able to figure out new words.

Strategy for Unknown Words

When you get stuck and you don't understand a word, ask yourself:

- *What do I already know about this word?*
- *Do I recognize part of it?*
- *Do I recognize the ending or the stem?*

When you don't recognize a word follow these steps:

1) Skip it. A single word probably isn't that important to understand most of the sentence, so just keep on reading. Stopping too often just breaks the flow of understanding and impedes acquisition.

2) Guess. If you see the word again, guess and see if your guess fits with the meaning of the sentence and the paragraph and keep on reading.

3) Guess again. If the word shows up again, take another guess and keep on reading.

4) Look it up. If the word keeps on appearing in the text, or if it seems like it is an important one to understand, go ahead and look it up or ask somebody what it means. But... don't get in the habit of doing this too often because it will slow you down and break your concentration.

Adapted from:
The Power of Reading, by Stephen Krashen

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