How Can I Benefit from Reading Fluency Passages?

You read, but the important question is do you read well? Before you can answer that, you need to know what it means to read well, also known as fluency. According to The National Reading Panel (in Waddell, 2005) reading fluently is the ability "to read orally with speed, accuracy, and proper expression." The report also says that "fluency is one of the several critical factors necessary for reading comprehension."

What does that mean? It means you need to read with speed and you need to understand what you're reading as you do it. It's that simple. Well, that's great, but how do you achieve it? Read on, and we'll give you the inside scoop!

Before you actually learn proper reading techniques, and therefore fluency, you first have to undo some bad habits that will otherwise hold you back.

Readers who read out loud or subvocalize (hear the words in their head as they go) are called auditory readers. They are generally slower readers than silent ones. This is because most people cannot speak more than 250 words per minute. In addition, most readers regress while reading. That means they go back in the text to read passages they've already seen and the words become jumbled out of context. Together, these two bad habits prevent most readers from reading well, since there is a definite relationship between fluent oral reading and fluent silent reading (Waddell, 2005).

So what's the solution? The best bet is technology. Today's computer programs offer opportunities to improve fluency and thereby encourage faster and more accurate reading. The AceReader Elite program is unquestionably the best software program on the market to make you a fluent reader.

AceReader Elite

In addition to its many exercises and activities, AceReader Elite uses two modes to increase both speed and comprehension:

1. Tachistoscopic Scroll Presentation (TSP). This mode displays the text so it forces your eyes to move as if you were reading normal paper-based or on-screen materials.

2. Rapid Serial Visual Presentation (RSVP). This mode presents text in a serial fashion at a fixed position on the screen. In that way, the words move to your eyes rather than the other way around. If you set the feature to flash the text faster or in larger blocks, you can increase your overall reading rate. This also forces you to abandon auditory reading since the text moves too fast for your "little voice" to keep up. In turn, that helps you make the move from fluent oral to fluent silent reading.

Accuracy

When you read, your accuracy in interpreting the text is critical – after all, what good is speed if you don't understand what you're reading? Once again, AceReader Elite delivers! It contains a whopping 830 custom-made, themed and grade-leveled Reading Comprehension Tests (1-12 + an adult level), which are essentially reading fluency passages. Each presents a timed reading followed by comprehension questions. If you use the Forced Speed/Mode feature, you can set the text to display more words at a time or at faster rates – you have to increase your speed to keep up with the words. And because you are tested on the passage, you have to remember the information accurately.

Accuracy is also important in the Games. For example, the Eye Span Game flashes multiple words on the screen for a set amount of time. You need to tell if the words were the same or different. This uses the reading technique of "configuration," being able to recognize a word by its shape. The Eye Span-Comprehension Game also flashes words, but you need to tell if their meanings were the same or different. Configuration is less important here than comprehension. You can adjust the speed of the display for both Games. At faster speeds, you have less time to process the information, which forces you to read more quickly and with greater accuracy. You can find more information about AceReader Elite and speed reading software here.

So there you have it. Reading fluency passages help shift attention from oral to silent reading, and they also improve both the reader's speed and accurate understanding of the material. And AceReader Elite is the must-have program to accomplish all these tasks. But don't just take my word for it. Download a no-strings-attached, no pre-payment required FREE 30-day demo by clicking the FREE ACCESS button below right now!