

# Total English

Pre-intermediate

## Fast reading!

Unit 8 has looked at speed in different contexts. Now you are going to think about reading and how speed reading can help you in your own language and learning English!

- 1 Click on [www.mindtools.com/speedrd.html](http://www.mindtools.com/speedrd.html). First of all just read through the article on speed reading as quickly as you can and then answer the following questions.
  - 1 Which adverb is used in the title of the article to describe how your speed reading will increase?
  - 2 What does speed reading help you to do?
  - 3 What is the most important trick?
  - 4 Which verb is used to describe the type of reading you do if you only want an outline of a document?
  - 5 How do reading techniques change from a very young child to an adult?
  - 6 According to this article what is the characteristic of a poor reader?
  - 7 How does speed reading aim to improve reading skills?
- 2 Now go to a different website, [www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk). There is a news and sport section on the home page. Test out your speed reading skills by reading an article from each of the sections, and then quickly noting down three key facts about each article.

News:	Sport:
1 _____	4 _____
2 _____	5 _____
3 _____	6 _____
- 3 Exchange papers with your partner and read each other's notes. Ask each other extra questions to find out more about the articles. How much have you remembered?



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## TEACHER'S NOTES:

**Aim:** to read an article about speed reading on the internet. This worksheet is designed to be used in conjunction with unit 8.

**Time:** 40 minutes maximum

**Materials:** photocopies of the worksheet for each student.

- 1 Direct students to the website and check that students arrive at the correct part of the site to find out the information. Check answers with the class.

**Answers:** 1 radically 2 read and understand text more quickly 3 to know what information you want from a document BEFORE you start reading it 4 skim 5 a young child reads letter by letter or word by word, and an adult reads in blocks of words which increases the amount of information taken in and the speed at which it happens 6 a poor reader can become bogged down spending a lot of time reading small blocks of words 7 it increases the number of words read in each block, it decreases the length of time spent reading each block and it also decreases the number of times the eye goes back to the previous sentence.

- 2 The students should now be interested in trying out their speed reading skills so encourage them to find out some information from the [bbc.co.uk](http://bbc.co.uk) website where there are two clear sections (news and sport) for the students to select areas of interest. Be at hand, to point out skimming potential, and to ask students how they are reading the articles. It's a relatively free activity though, and a chance for students to do some self-assessment of their reading and has the added advantage of allowing students the freedom to investigate two topics of interest of their own.
- 3 At the end, encourage students to swap their information from the two new stories they have chosen and to discuss the facts. Get feedback from various pairs.



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