

Activities to Improve Reading Fluency, Decoding, and Comprehension (Session 1)

1. Listen to a book on tape while you follow along with the book. Libraries have these in teen sections/children's sections/adult sections.
2. Read aloud into a tape recorder and listen to your voice reading.
3. Listen to audio books on tape/CDS while driving or settling down before sleep. (Philip S. Miller Public Library now offers audiobooks on MP3 as well).
4. Go to librivox.com for free downloadable novels and classic literature on MP3 files.
5. Obtain the "Language Roots" game at a local bookstore. Understanding the Greek and Latin roots for words assists in the decoding of words; for example, understanding the meanings of prefixes/suffixes such as "un" and "ed" will assist you in spelling/comprehension/phonics.
6. If you are overwhelmed by the text on a computer screen, you can click "tools" and then under that click on "autosummarize." This will give you several options like summarizing the article, highlighting the key parts in yellow, etc.
7. Phonemic awareness is the ability to notice, think about, and work with the individual sounds in spoken words. The first level in phonemic awareness is hearing and recognizing rhyming words. Nursery rhymes are a fun way for younger kids to learn this, and reading and composing rhyming poetry will build this skill for older kids.
8. Before taking a test on reading material, read through the material several times. The first time through after lecture, highlight the information you did not remember in a light color like yellow. The second time through, highlight the information you did not recall this time in a slightly darker color, and so on and so on. Lastly, read through the information again only focusing on what is only highlighted. In this way, you will activate your visual memory with color, repetition and so forth.
9. The goal is to enjoy reading so read anything: magazines, a series on a favorite topic (Ask librarians for ideas), book club as a family, graphic novels, books on tape on family trips, etc.