



“Popcorn” Reading and Paragraph Analysis

Level

Intermediate-advanced

Time

Variable

Outline

Vocabulary work
Identifying key ideas
Reading strategy

Focus

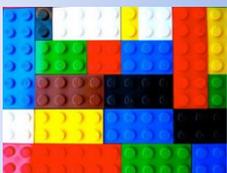
Reading

Material

Text

Thinking skills

Establish synthesis
Finding main idea
vs supporting details



Procedure

1. Tell your learners the headline/topic of your article/text and the subtitle. Have them speculate in pairs what to expect from the text. Scaffold **speculating language** (see “Functional Language”).
2. Hand out the text. Tell one learner to read the first paragraph. Correct pronunciation if necessary, especially of subject-specific terminology.
3. Tell your learners to highlight new and *good* expressions (*which they understand but would like to remember and use themselves*).
4. Invite them to share their GOOD expressions with the class.
5. Then focus on the new expressions. Elicit help from classmates. Offer an explanation/definition/translation only when no learner can help.
6. Record the new terms on the blackboard/screen and have your learners note them down.
7. Ask your learners to re-read the paragraph and to find the main idea(s). Share this with the class.
8. Have them note down this main idea on the margin of the text.
9. Invite the last reader to name the next reader.
10. Repeat steps 3-8 for all the following paragraphs.
11. Make your learners aware of this summarising technique (“summarising for learning”).

Tip

- for reading a text WITHOUT previously scaffolding vocabulary
- suitable for magazine/newspaper articles

Optional

See “Functional Language”

Alternative

Replace step 6 with the activity “Disappearing Words” (for memorising new vocabulary).