

READING REMINDER BOOKMARKS

Copy these onto colorful paper, then cut them out and distribute them to your classes to help students learn how to read in a new language.

READING REMINDER BOOKMARK

Don't Read a Single Word!

By Bryce Hedstrom

The best advice to help you learn to read in a new language may be 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 just to keep on reading. Read whole paragraphs. Read for ideas. Read for meaning.

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.

Word Attack Strategies

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?

If you do not recognize part of the word and cannot figure out what it might mean, follow these steps from Stephen Krashen:

- 1) **Skip it.** Just keep on reading if the word does not seem too important to understand what is going on in the story. Stopping just breaks the flow of the story.
- 2) **Guess.** Check to see if your guess fits with the meaning of the sentence and the paragraph and keep on reading.
- 3) **Guess again.** Take another guess if your first one doesn't seem quite right and keep on reading.
- 4) **Look it up.** If the word keeps on appearing in the text, or if it seems like 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.

Stephen Krashen, PhD, [The Power of Reading](#)

Bryce Hedstrom

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The best advice to help you learn to read in Spanish may be 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 just to keep on reading. Read whole phrases. Read for ideas. Read for meaning.

Context

The context alone will often give you clues about the meaning of an unknown word. Let the words that you know help you understand the new ones. Read to get the big picture.

Dealing with Unknown Words

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

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