



CAPE Alumni Internet Connection: English Teacher Talk

CAPE Internet Talk was started as part of CAPE follow-up activities to continue ties with CAPE alumni and those who are interested in professional development in English teaching. It is hoped that this would increase our bond and aloha among former participants, and that the information in the TALK would help our alumni and friends/members review what they know and deepen their understanding of issues and interest in the ESL field.

Timed Repeated Reading

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Introduction

In this article, I present and discuss one of my favorite reading activities, timed repeated reading. First I explain how to do the activity. Then I discuss why it is such an excellent activity.

The Activity

This is a very simple activity. It involves your students reading the same reading passage (e.g., pages from a book, a newspaper article) three times. That's it. Here are the step-by-step procedures.

1. Tell your students that they will read the same material three times for a minute each time.
2. Explain that they need to read at a good speed, not too fast but not too slowly.
3. Now tell your students to read.
4. You time them (of course you need a watch with a second hand) for one minute.
5. At the end of one minute, tell them to stop reading and to underline the last word that they read.
6. Now tell your students to return **to the beginning** of the same passage that they just read, and read it again. Remind them to read at a comfortable speed, not too fast but not too slowly.
7. Time them for one minute; tell the students to stop reading; have them underline the last word that they read.
8. Repeat this a third time.
9. After your students have read for the third time, have them count the number of words that they read each time and complete the Reading Rate Chart (see box below).

This activity can be used with students at all levels, from beginning to advanced.

Why I Like It

I find that this activity helps students become confident in their ability to increase their reading speed. My students always read more the second and third times. Further, because the students are encountering the same words again and again, it builds up their sight vocabulary (words that are recognized instantaneously), which is the foundation of fluent reading. As their eyes move quickly over the previously-read material, they practice processing words and phrases more efficiently.

You need to do this activity on a weekly basis in order for the students to build up their sight vocabulary. Make sure that your students read materials at an appropriate level—not too

