

Reading is a Waste of Time! : Teaching suggestions

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Activity 1

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1. Get a student to read the instructions out loud and check that the students understand them.
2. Let the students brainstorm in pairs.
3. Stop the activity.
4. Elicit feedback.

Answer: booked

Activity 2

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1. Get a student to read the instructions out loud and check that the students understand them.
2. Let the students do the activity.
3. Monitor closely.
4. Stop the activity.
5. Elicit feedback.

Answers:

1. **In my book**
2. **read up on**
3. **bookmark**
4. **by the book**
5. **read between the lines**
6. **in good books**
7. **read me like a book**
8. **bookworm**
9. **widely-read**
10. **cooking the books**

Activity 3

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1. Get a student to read the instructions out loud and check that the students understand them.
2. Let the students begin their conversation, in English, in pairs or small groups.
3. Monitor closely.
4. Stop the activity.
5. Elicit feedback.

Activity 4

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If your students don't have access to computers in the classroom, set this for homework.

Answers:

1. **No.**
2. **Yes (in Paragraph 1)**
3. **Simplified readers and newspapers**
4. **See next page:**

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Quick Quiz Answers

Read the clues below and write the solutions on a piece of paper. Then take the first letter of each answer and rearrange them to find the **word** connected with this month's talking point subject, 'Reading is a waste of time!'

1. In an average ...WEEK.....we can read all sorts of different types of texts.
2. Learning to read in English can seem a bit ...ODD..... at first.
3. The teacher may ask you toREAD..... the title and predict the main points of the text.
4. When you read in class you know that you will probably meet some words that you don'tKNOW.....
5. The teacher may well ask you to read the text for the first time in just a couple ofMINUTES....., forcing you to read more quickly than is comfortable.
6. The teacher tries to help the student to develop useful reading skills that he or she can use ...OUTSIDE..... the classroom.
7. When you read in your own language there may occasionally be a word you are not familiar with but you will probably not reachBLINDLY..... for the dictionary.
8. As the ...OLD..... saying goes 'Practise makes perfect'.

Answers: BOOKWORM (B for Blindly [7], O for Odd [2], O for Outside [6], K for Know [4], W for Week [1], O for Old [8], R for Read [3], M for Minutes [5]).

Activity 5

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This activity can be set as homework to be followed up and consolidated in a future lesson generating more discussion. What did most students feel about the question? What reasons were put forward in each case? Did the students read anything which changed their minds on the topic? (etc.)

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