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Working with texts in the English lessons

Task 4

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BEFECTETÉS A JÖVŐBE



Task 4

Look again at the reading passages that we examined for the pre-reading tasks, this time focusing on the comprehension tasks. What type of exercise is it? And how might it promote making sense of the text?

1.

https://elt.oup.com/catalogue/items/global/adult_courses/new_english_file/upper-intermediate/?cc=global&selLanguage=en

p. 71 What's your soundtrack?

Exercise d)

Type of exercise:

How might it help comprehension?

p. 73 Sleepy people – the dangers of sleep deprivation

Exercise b)

Type of exercise:

How might it help comprehension?

Exercise c)

Type of exercise:

How might it help comprehension?

Exercise d)

Type of exercise:

How might it help comprehension?

Exercise e)

Type of exercise:

How might it help comprehension?

2.

https://elt.oup.com/catalogue/items/global/adult_courses/english_file_third_edition/intermediate/?cc=de&selLanguage=de

p. 5 Mood Food

Exercise d)

Type of exercise:

How might it help comprehension?

3.

https://elt.oup.com/catalogue/items/global/adult_courses/new_headway/intermediate_fourth_edition/?cc=global&selLanguage=enu%2711

pp 26-27 Romeo and Juliet

Exercises 3 and 4

Type of exercise:

How might it help comprehension?



Key

1.

https://elt.oup.com/catalogue/items/global/adult_courses/new_english_file/upper-intermediate/?cc=global&selLanguage=en

p. 71 What's your soundtrack?

Exercise d)

Type: scanning the text in order to match specific information with parts of the text

How might it help comprehension? – by providing synonyms for some of the expressions in the text (e.g. “speak their minds without thinking” for “express their thoughts impulsively”)

p. 73 Sleepy people – the dangers of sleep deprivation

Exercise b)

Type: skimming for gist

How might it help comprehension?

- dividing the text into two between pairs of learners and making them share the result of their skimming eases the reading load in the first step. They both get a rough idea about what the text is about and they only had to read half the amount for that. Later both of them will read the whole text of course.

- Finding answers to questions in the text helps the learner orientate themselves in the text (what information is where).

Exercise c)

Type: answering comprehension questions about the text

How might it help comprehension?

- the students are still working on half of the text only – this reduces the reading load

- the questions help the reader focus on the main pieces of information or argumentation

- sometimes we understand the sentences in the text better through a well-formed question about them.

Exercise d)

Type: discussing the answers to comprehension questions

How might it help comprehension? – When we have to explain something to someone, we make more effort to understand what we are reading and to formulate our answers clearly and correctly.

Exercise e)

Type: same as for c) reading half the text and answering comprehension questions – this time mentally, with the instruction to “check if your partner left anything out”

How might it help comprehension? – The learners already know a lot about the text through listening to their partner's answers to their part of the comprehension questions. This makes reading and understanding a lot easier – with the danger, of course, that they might adopt their partner's misunderstandings as well, if they are not careful. Likewise, only concentrating on what the other left out rather than having to answer a bunch of comprehension questions, constitutes a greatly reduced cognitive load – and the whole experience might be challenging and fun.

2.

https://elt.oup.com/catalogue/items/global/adult_courses/english_file_third_edition/intermediate/?cc=de&selLanguage=de

p. 5 Mood Food

Exercise d)

Type: summarizing the gist of (parts of) the story

How might it help comprehension? – The guiding expressions provided in the task focus the learners' attention to the gist of the story.

3.

https://elt.oup.com/catalogue/items/global/adult_courses/new_headway/intermediate_fourth_edition/?cc=global&selLanguage=enu%2711

pp 26-27 Romeo and Juliet

Exercises 3 and 4

Type: answering comprehension questions

How might it help comprehension?

Same as above:

- the questions help the reader focus on the main pieces of information or argumentation
- sometimes we understand the sentences in the text better through a well-formed question about them.