



GOAL: Read Magazines

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Overview

Drum roll please! Here are the top five reasons to read magazines:

- 5 – They fold up so you can fit them in your purse or a big pocket.
- 4 – They have lots of pictures.
- 3 – You can give them to kids to cut up and make collages with.
- 2 – They're cheaper than books.

And the number one reason why you should read magazines...

...YOU LEARN A LITTLE ABOUT EVERYTHING!

Just like eating well and exercising is important for good health, reading is important for life-long learning. Reading opens doors to new knowledge, and new knowledge leads to a smarter and happier brain.

When you work on this goal you will learn to access magazines, a very popular source of reading material for people of all ages and abilities and all interest areas. So, get ready for a workout. Your brain might not have muscles that others can see, but your new knowledge and confidence will show anyhow.

Reading magazines can even save lives or stop illness. I should know, because a magazine once helped me identify a medical problem. I told my doctor about a magazine article I had read, he did the right tests, and we were on the way to solving a medical problem that had been costing me quite a bit of money.

Getting Started

People read magazines for many reasons. Those reasons all include learning. After all, reading is a very large part of the way we learn. People read magazines to:

- Learn new things (There are magazines that cover almost any topic you can think of! *Reader's Digest* is one example of a magazine that contains many different topics.)
- Learn more about topics that interest them (There are magazines that focus on one topic. For example, *Model Railroader* and *Astronomy* focus on one topic.)
- Learn new ways to cope with job or relationship issues. People also read magazines to learn more about health issues like diabetes, losing weight or depression. (The magazine *Health*, for example, focuses on women's health, and includes articles about relationships, stress, exercise and healthy lifestyles.)
- Be entertained (Almost all magazine readers are entertained by their learning, but some magazines focus on entertainment, such as *People* magazine, which tells about popular actors and actresses.)

There might be magazines you already enjoy looking at, but there are many out there, so don't limit yourself to only the ones you know right now.

If you are brand new to reading magazines, you might want some ideas about which magazines are going to be good for you. If you live in a large city, your public library might have 30, 40 or maybe even more magazines available for check out. Also, many libraries have more than a hundred online magazines, and all you need to read them is a computer and a library card.

Books & Materials

- First, get a library card if you don't have one already—you will need to use your card to check out magazines from your local library.
- Have a notebook and pens or pencils on-hand —any learner will use these things to keep notes.
- Magazines! Find the magazine section of your library (often called “Periodicals”) and browse the selection there. If your tutoring session meets in the library you can just select a few magazines that look interesting and bring them to where you are working. If you would like to check them out, bring them up to the circulation desk with your library card. Sometimes libraries do not check out the most current issue of a magazine so you may need to look for older issues to check out. And if you have a Friends of the Library used book sale in your library, check for used magazines there or just bring magazines from home.

Key Vocabulary

Many of these words describe parts of most magazines. By learning these words as they relate to magazine reading, you will have a better idea of where to begin reading and how to organize the ideas as you read.

Advertisement – Is a form of communication used to help sell products and services. In a magazine, an advertisement may take up one or two pages, sometimes more. An advertisement may also be designed to look like an article. *“She noticed an **advertisement** in Travel magazine about the cruise line.”*

Article – A piece of writing, a story. *“Cosmopolitan magazine has many **articles** about cosmetics and beauty.”*

Audience – A group of people interested in the same things, the group of people the magazine writes for. *“The **audience** for Sunset magazine is people living in the West.”*

Caption – A sentence or two which gives an explanation for a picture. *“The **caption** under the picture explained that water had damaged a large part of the museum.”*

Classified Ads – A common section of many magazines (and newspapers). These are want ads—a place where companies or individual people can sell or ask for things or services. *“Jude looked in the **classified ads** for a used bicycle.”*

Headline – A group of words in large or bold type printed above a story to show the main idea of a story. *“The **headline** tells what the story is about.”*

Periodicals – The word that librarians and many universities use for magazines. They are called “periodicals” because they are published at regular periods of time, say every month. *“The reference librarian told Julie that the **periodicals** section was on the second floor.”*

Side Bar – Extra information or tips set aside from the article, often in a large box or shaded area. The side bar is often a place where writers place more details about a story, or show the information in a new way, such as a graph. *“After reading the **side bar** about making milk-free brownies, Jolene knew she wanted to read the whole article on dairy-free cooking.”*

Slant – The opinions of a magazine. The opinions of some magazines might be political or religious, for example. *“Stories in Mother Earth News are **slanted** towards environmentalism.”*

Topic – The main idea of a story, the subject being written about, or, the bigger subject of a whole magazine. *“Raul saw two **topics** he wanted to read about in Science Illustrated, one about a new cure for cancer and another about swine flu.”*

Variety – A number of different kinds within the same group. *“Sports Illustrated magazine has a **variety** of articles about sports.”*

Reading Practice

Articles of Interest. Go to the California Distance Learning Project Adult Learning Activities website: www.cdlponline.org/. Across the top, you will see pictures of various life activities, such as a doctor wearing a mask for “health and safety,” two men working together for “working,” or a stack of dollars for “money.” Click on one that interests you. You will be guided to a number of different articles. Some of the articles have a picture of a video camera—those have sound and video to go with the article.

After each article, different activities allow you to find out about words you don’t know, practice spelling, and listen to more difficult words being spoken. Try to complete at least one story from each topic area. Why? This gives you practice reading about many different subjects. A well-rounded reader is a stronger reader! Plus, you might find some interest areas you never knew you had.

In the Know. Check with your Literacy Services Staff for the In the Know series, probably in your literacy collection (it’s also available at www.newreaderspress.com). In the Know is a series of books which feature magazine-style articles. They begin easy and get harder as you go, allowing you to build vocabulary and comprehension in carefully planned steps.

Read & Comprehend. For more on-line articles to read, go to the “Literacy Tools” website at <http://literacytools.ie/onlineExercisesStep2.cfm?list=type>. Sound is available for some of the articles. After reading each passage, you can test yourself on comprehension. This site is nice, as you can choose articles or topics that help you with real-life, workplace vocabulary as well. You get practice reading and helpful life skills tips at the same time!

Writing Practice

Writing about what you read improves your comprehension. It will also tell you where your strengths are and where you need more work.

The 3-2-1 Strategy. Using your library card or a computer, either check out a magazine or go to one of the online newspapers listed in the Independent Practice/Homework Section. Look around and find an article that looks interesting to you. You will then apply the 3-2-1 strategy: after reading your article once or twice:

- 3 – Write down three things you learned about.
- 2 – Write two things that were most interesting to you.
- 1 – Write one question you still have or write a question you now have after reading the article.

Don’t worry about spelling or grammar for this exercise. 3-2-1 helps you see what you’ve learned, what you really enjoyed, and what you want to know more about.

I Have a Dream. The “I Have a Dream” Quiz was inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who wrote the famous speech “I Have a Dream,” about ending racism in America. This quiz will help you dream BIG about many things. Your answers will help you find your interest areas—some that might surprise you. The only rule: dream big! If you can write, feel free to write your answers, but don’t worry about spelling and grammar. If you are not a writer, you and your tutor can complete these together.

- “If I won the lottery, I would _____.”
- “If I knew I could do it, and money or time or training wasn’t an issue, I would _____.”
- “When I was a kid, I always wanted to be a _____.”
- “If I could change anything about myself, I would _____.”
- “I am most worried about _____.”
- “If I was a famous explorer, I would go to _____.”
- “If I was the smartest person on Earth, I would be able to _____.”

Did your answers surprise you? Or, are you the kind of person who always thinks about these kinds of things? Either way, your answers show your interest areas. There are so many magazines out there, and whatever your interest area, there is one for you! If one or two of the questions were the easiest or the most fun for you to think about, you have a very big clue about your unique interest areas. Your librarian can help you find a magazine that would help you learn more about any of these areas.

Magazine Detective. Select a magazine with plenty of pictures. Preview the magazine so you can give the following clues:

1. Find an article about _____.
2. Find an article with pictures that show _____.
3. Find a picture of _____.
4. Find the article that starts on page _____.
5. Find the article that ends on page _____.
6. Find the table of contents.
7. Find an article written by _____.
8. Find an article that shows you how-to _____.
9. Find the article with the headline _____.
10. Find a cartoon.
11. Find an advertisement.
12. Etc.!

Games and Activities

Flip the Chip. This link takes you to a fun game that can be played as long as you want, or just for short practice sessions: <http://www.readwritethink.org/materials/flip>. In Flip the Chip, you ‘spin’ two poker chips on the computer screen. The chips stop, showing parts of a word. You then decide where the word made with the two chips will fit in the sentences below.

Destination Impossible. 'Destination Impossible' is a game where you have to read the instructions to help your character around "Skillswise City." This game was developed in England so there will be some British terms like "pub" but essentially this game is about thinking, following directions, and using pictures as clues. With your tutor's help or alone, go to <http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/words/grammar/texttypes/instructions/game.shtml>.

Independent Practice/Homework

The Key: A Newspaper for New Readers. The following link will take you to an online newspaper: <http://www.keynews.org>. Once there, you will find a list of articles. One simple click and you will be introduced to that topic. The articles are fairly short, allowing you to find out about a number of different topics. This is what it is like to read an online magazine!

World News. This link will take you to another online newspaper produced by the British Broadcasting Company (BBC): <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>. Here, you will find international news, more pictures (click on one to learn more) and even radio so that you can listen to news or music online. This site, besides having a listening part, gives great practice at moving around a web page. In addition, this site is kept up-to-date, so you can practice your computer navigation and reading with up-to-the-minute news and stories.

Real World Practice

Journey to Periodicals. Time to get out there and see what the world of magazines has to offer you! Your first 'field trip' will be to the magazine section of your local library. Your job? Check out three magazines. Find two magazines that look interesting to you and one that you've never looked at before. HINT: If you have children, you could even choose a magazine from the young adult or children's area. When children see their parents take an interest in what they read, their interest in reading goes up. ("Hey, Dad, I wanna see that too!")

Visit a Bookstore. Your second 'field trip' will be to a local bookstore. In this case, the larger 'chain' bookstores will have more magazines to look at. Barnes and Noble, Borders and even larger grocery chains often have a surprising number of magazines. Take your notepad. As you look through the magazine selection, write down the names of some that look great to you. Later, you can ask the librarian if those magazines are available for check-out from the library. If you have some cash, consider buying one or two. When you're done, you could leave them in the tutoring area for others to use.

Post-it Practice. Get yourself a post-it pad (3 x 3 is best). Next, borrow a magazine from the library or bring one from home. Write the vocabulary words (above, page 3), one vocabulary word per post-it note. Now, spend some time looking through the pages of the magazine. See how many parts of the magazine you can find. Place a post-it note next to each part. For example, if you think you have found the headline for an article, place your post-it note there.

Of course some of the vocabulary words will not have a physical location in the magazine. “Slant” and “Audience” are two examples. You don’t have to write those words on the Post-it note. See how many parts of the magazine you can identify.

Milestones

- **Initial Effort** – You have determined your interests and have browsed the periodicals (magazine) sections of your library including the periodicals section in the Children’s area. You have selected several magazines that you think would be of interest to you or to your family members.
- **Making Progress** – You understand the lay-out of a magazine and can find articles. If something is advertised on the cover, you can find it in the magazine. You understand that articles can cover several pages and you can follow the same article throughout the magazine using the “continued on page ____” prompts. You can tell the difference between articles and advertisements.
- **Accomplished** – You have pursued your interests by reading several articles from several different magazines. You know how to browse through a magazine to find what you want to read. Congratulations! You’re a magazine reader.

Contributor’s Autobiography

Jean Bury. Shortly after my son was born, I became ill. After I was released from the hospital, I didn’t get better and my doctors thought it was just taking me a long time. After a month, I began to have trouble with my heart. I went to the doctor, again, and was waiting in a doctor’s office for a test when I picked up a *Reader’s Digest*. I saw an article with this headline: “5 Diseases Doctors Miss Most in Women.” After two minutes of reading, I was pretty sure I knew what was wrong with me.

I showed the article to the doctor and asked her if she thought I could have the problem, which is called Grave’s Disease. The doctor wasn’t sure, but said she would order some simple tests since I met the description given in the magazine. She said the simple tests would tell whether or not I needed more testing. As it turns out, I did have the disease I had read about. The doctors were happy because they were able to get me the help I needed, and I was even happier to have answers and get the medicine I needed.

Now, 15 years later, I am doing well. I live in Northern California and have been working in a very small town as a librarian for the past two and half years. And, I don’t go to the doctor every week! I know that magazines can’t do a doctor’s job, but I truly learned the lesson that reading magazines can make a difference in your life.