

COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY WITH PROFESSOR SIMON P. LIVERSEDGE AND DR CHUANLI ZANG

TALKING POINTS

KNOWLEDGE & COMPREHENSION

1. What is foveal vision?
2. What is parafoveal vision?
3. What is eye movement methodology?
4. What is a Multi-Constituent Unit (MCU)?

APPLICATION

5. Can you give three examples of MCUs?
6. Can you think of any MCUs that are the same in different languages?
Tip: Can you think of any well-known international brand names?

ANALYSIS

7. What is the difference between a saccade and a fixation?
8. Why is it better to study the cognitive processes underlying reading in different languages?
9. Why do some MCUs exist in different languages and other MCUs only in one language?

EVALUATION & CREATIVITY

10. Some words are harder to read than others. Can you think of two things that make one word harder to read than another? Can you form a hypothesis based on your ideas, and design an experiment to test your hypothesis?
11. How can eye movement methodology be used by scientists studying something other than reading? What kinds of psychological processes might scientists investigate?

MORE RESOURCES

- Watch a video of the eye movements a person makes when they read:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=VYDwYoMtFcE
- Find out some more background to cognitive psychology in this video:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=VcaAVWtP48A
- Check out some of the TED talks on cognitive science:
www.ted.com/topics/cognitive+science
- Watch a short video and read the full transcript of an interview with Professor Keith Rayner:
childrenofthecode.org/interviews/rayner.htm

ACTIVITIES YOU CAN DO AT HOME OR IN THE CLASSROOM

1. Create a poster explaining how we read.

Think about:

- Information on cognitive psychology that you think may be relevant and explain the terms that you use (e.g., fixation, saccade, eye movements, etc.).
- How do we learn to read? How did your teachers teach you to read?
- Why is it important to learn to read? What kinds of things would you not be able to do if you could not read?
- How many times do you think you engage in reading in a day? Remember the things you did since you woke up this morning and think whether you read anything when you did those things.
- You might find helpful information at the 'Our Research' section of the 'Investigating Multi-Constituent Units in Reading' project website: www.readmcu.org

2. Simon, Chuanli, Xuejun and Guoli were inspired by Professor Keith Rayner, the cognitive psychologist who was a pioneer of eye movement methodology.

- Write a short article or blog about another scientific pioneer – someone whose work significantly changed our understanding of a particular scientific field.
- Include information about their life and carried out. Explain what the research involved, and why it was pioneering.

Some possible pioneers are listed here:
www.nesfircroft.com/blog/2020/03/7-british-scientific-pioneers-who-changed-the-world