



# Improving Reading Comprehension for Learners with Dyslexia



- Difficulties & how they affect reader
- Preparation for text
- Dealing with text
- What to do with information





- Decoding difficulties
- Reading fluency and speed
- Word retrieval difficulty
- Weak working memory
- Organisation



- Decoding difficulties

- confusion (a/u; b/d/p)
- reversals (was /saw; dog/ god)
- omissions (letters, syllables, words)

- dyslexia
- dyspraxia
- visual impairments



- Reading fluency & speed

- hesitation
- repetition
- punctuation



# • Word retrieval difficulty

- “tip of my tongue”
- substitutions – similar meaning, similar sounding
- spoonerisms, reversals



- Weak working memory

- hold
- analyse
- consider
- compare
- accept / reject
- select
- store



# • Organisation

- workspace, materials
- information
- ideas





Learning to read

Reading to learn



The people of ancient Egypt highly valued family life. They treasured children and regarded them as a great blessing. In the lower class families, the mother raised the children. The wealthy and nobility, had slaves and servants that helped take care of the children by attending to their daily needs. If a couple had no children, they would pray to the gods and goddesses for help. They would also place letters at the tombs of dead relatives asking them to use their influence with the gods. Magic was also used as an attempt to have children. In event that a couple still could not conceive a child, adoption was also an option.

Although women were expected to obey their fathers and husbands, they were equal to men in many ways. They had the legal right to participate in business deals, own land, and were expected to represent themselves in court cases. Women even faced the same penalties as men. Sometimes wives and mothers of pharaohs were the "real" ruling power in government, though they ruled unknowingly to common people. Queen Hatshepsut was the only woman who ruled out right by declaring herself pharaoh. An Egyptian wife and mother were highly respected in this ancient society.

Young boys learned a trade or craft from their fathers or an artisan. Young girls worked and received their training at home with their mothers. Those who could afford it sent their sons, from about the age 7, to school to study religion, reading, writing, and arithmetic. Even though there is no evidence of schools for girls, some were home taught to read and write and some even became doctors.



## Before the text –

### 1. Define learning objectives

### 2. Set the scene

- What do you know already? **Document!!**
- What does your neighbour know? **Document!!**
- Illustrations, film, music... **Document!!**

### 3. Important vocabulary



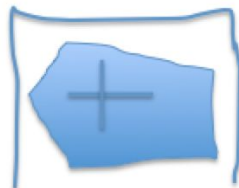


# Vocabulary

slave

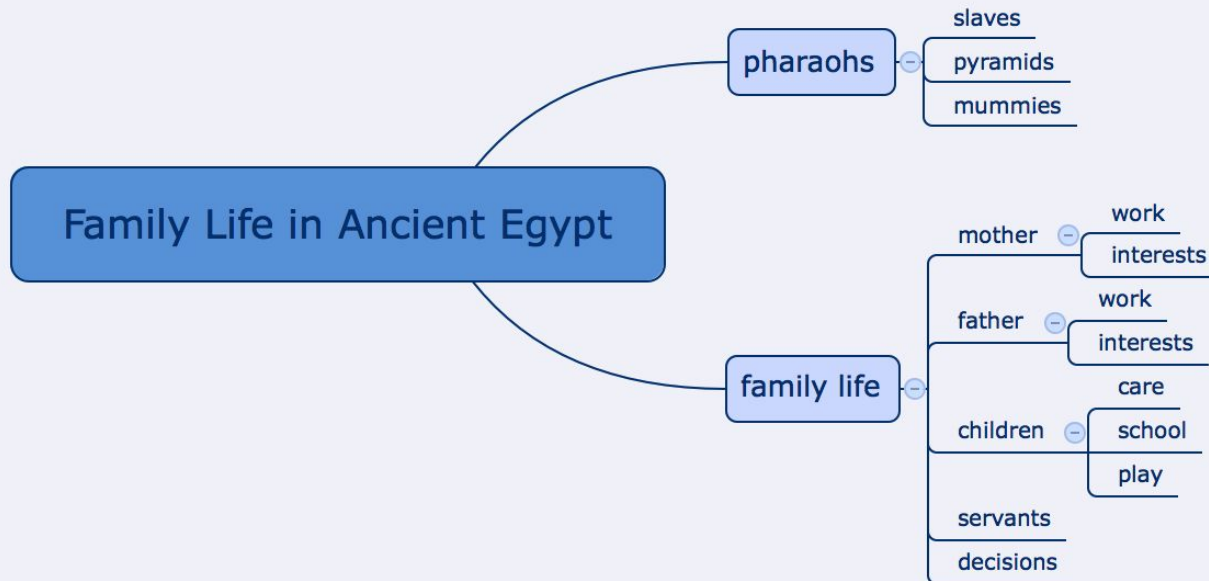
nobility

tomb





## Collating Knowledge





## Collating knowledge

Title: Family Life in Ancient Egypt

Things I know already:

Egypt:  
pharaohs  
pyramids  
mummies

Egypt:  
hot  
tunics  
walked funny  
eye make-up

families:  
parents  
children  
grandparents  
pets

home:  
jobs  
food  
house

work:  
school  
at home  
away from home  
money  
servants

hobbies:  
games  
grown-ups  
music



## Collating knowledge

Title: Family Life in Ancient Egypt

Ideas I will share:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

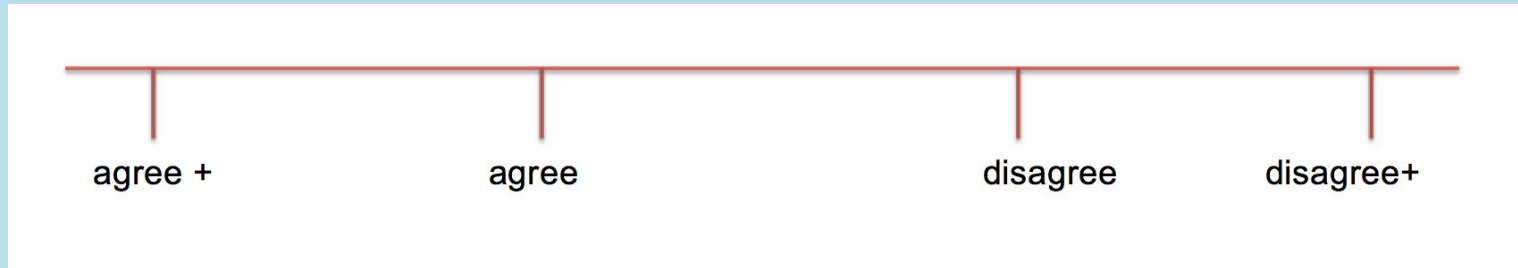
Ideas I will get:

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
from \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
from \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
from \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
from \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_  
from \_\_\_\_\_





## Stating an Opinion



because...



# Before Reading

1. Headings, summary
2. Questions
3. **The first sentence of each paragraph will present the new idea.**  
Highlighting those sentences and reading them will help to learner to grasp the structure of the text more easily.



## Practical Tips for Working with Text

- Photocopy when possible
  - consider colour
  - one side only
- Use highlighters, post-its, scissors etc
- Remove noise
- Consider text length
  - Is it necessary?
  - Can it be introduced gradually?





## Using Post-its

### Family Life in Ancient Egypt

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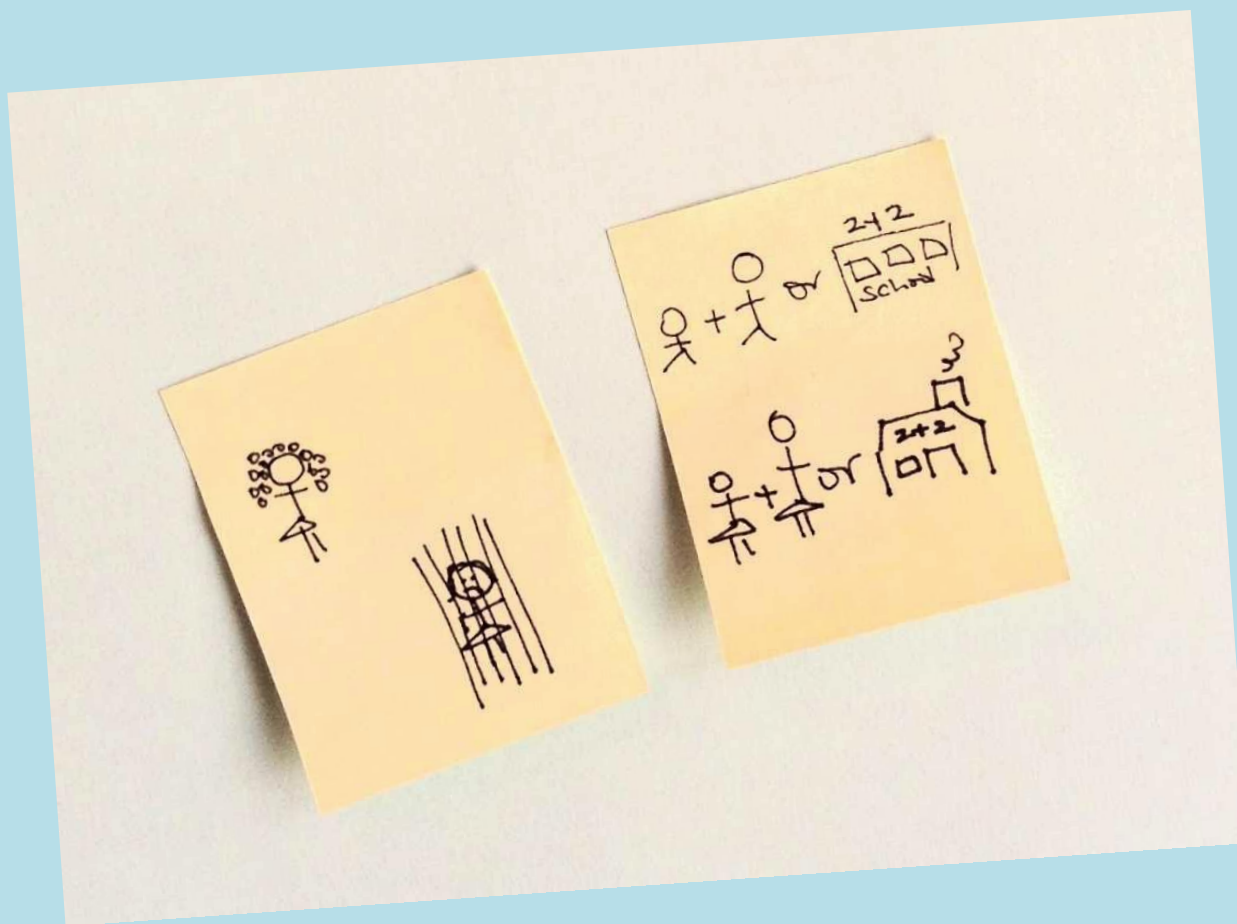
men + woman  
- rights  
- laws

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learning  
boys  
- dad  
or school  
girls  
- mum  
or home.



## Post-it Doodles





## Technology

- e-readers
  - change background colour
  - change or enlarge font
  - text-to-speech
- text-to-speech – tablets, computers
  - highlight text while reading
- tagged PDF



## Useful Links

<http://www.robobrainle.org>

<http://www.daisy.org/education>



# What for?

## On the Surface

- facts & details
- summary, retelling
- found quite easily in text
- who, what, where, when?*





## Below the Surface

- not explicitly stated
- why, how, should could?*
- evaluating, speculating, predicting
- making inferences



## Meaning to Life

- relate to self or own knowledge
- asks opinion
- puts reader in other's shoes



## Inferring

Feeling her usual anxiety, Anna opened the door, straightened her shoulders and walked in.



## In summary...

- difficulties faced by struggling readers
- techniques to prepare for text
- making text approachable
- what to do with the information

and finally...



## More Links

- Academic language and comprehension:  
<http://www.jeffzwiers.org/index.html>
- Free online mind-mapping tool:  
<https://coggle.it>
- Dyslexia Berlin  
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Dyslexia-Berlin/913547038706296>

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