



Chunking Text

Careful reading of complex text at the word level

Suggested Time: 20 minutes

Student Tasks:

- Listen to text
- Chunk text
- Identify unfamiliar vocabulary
- Replace unfamiliar words with words they know, look up, or translate
- Reread the text
- Summarize the text
- Share out a summary

Online ThinkCERCA Resources

- Complex texts
- Tools for scaffolding reading (focus mode, translation, picture dictionary, online glossary, audio support, syllabication, part of speech, etc.)

Strategy

Chunking text is a method of taking difficult or dense text and making it more accessible to students. It is a scaffolding strategy that teaches students the process of text analysis at the word level. It is best-suited to deeply explore small pieces of text rather than entire chapters.

Optimal Application Notes

Though this method is time-intensive, the return on investment is huge. Do this with the class several times before asking them to break a text down independently, as this strategy must be modeled several times. Model the strategy using a multi-sentence paragraph or section of disciplinary texts.

Before:

- To model, select a piece of text with either a high lexile level or heavy Tier 3 vocabulary.
- Provide students with access to the text so they can write on the text, either digitally or physically.

During:

- Read the passage aloud to students.
- Have students replace all punctuation with a period. This shortens sentences and makes the text more manageable. *This will not negatively impact their understanding of language. It's a cognitive scaffold to help students process smaller pieces of information at a time.*
- Next, students will circle or highlight all of the unfamiliar words or phrases.
- Students will replace the unfamiliar words with synonyms or use the dictionary to identify a simplified definition of the word. (Use our custom lesson tool to enable picture dictionaries, translation, and read-aloud.)
- Students will re-read the passage on their own using the new words.
- Students will summarize the passage in one to two sentences to clarify understanding.
- Students can share their summaries with a partner or with the whole group.

After:

- Have students share the final summary sentence.
- Encourage students by stating that this is a college-level tool and that by using it, they can unlock difficult text.

Skills Targeted:

- Using reference resources (dictionaries and translators)
- Word analysis
- Summarizing
- Making connections Inferring

Scaffolds & Supports:

- Print the Vocabulary list.
- Provide a smaller list of keywords.
- Use pairs instead of groups.
- Allow students to practice as a class or in groups, saying the words out loud.