



DIAGNOSTIC WORKSHEET #3: ESTABLISH YOUR NEW READING SPEED & COMPREHENSION

Take this quiz only after you've been practicing your optimized, efficient saccades and broken the "sound barrier." This should take a couple of weeks, so we recommend skipping the quiz for now if you intend to continue reading. Come back to it later to track your progress!

Instructions: Read the text on the following page at the fastest speed you can, while attempting to remember and store at least 80% of the pertinent details. It's not necessary to print this document; reading on screen is fine. If you prefer to print it out and read on paper, please make sure to use 8.5x14" legal format paper.

Use a timer, starting and stopping at the indicated points, to measure your speed. After you're finished, use the table below to help you convert your speed to the standardized Words Per Minute ("WPM") metric we use throughout the course.

Once you've completed reading the selection, you will be asked a series of questions that test your understanding and retention of the material.

Mark your speed and retention scores on the Progress & Goals Worksheet which you've printed out and posted in a visible area.

HOW TO CALCULATE YOUR READING SPEED

1. Time (MM:SS)	2. Convert to seconds (60s/m)	3. Divide by 60 to get minutes	4. Divide 520 by your time in minutes	= WPM
Ex: 02:55	Ex: 175	Ex: 2.92	Ex: $520 \div 2.92$	= 178

Record this number on the Progress & Goals Worksheet ↗

--START YOUR TIMER--

I am honored to be with you today at your commencement from one of the finest universities in the world. I never graduated from college. Truth be told, this is the closest I've ever gotten to a college graduation. Today I want to tell you three stories from my life. That's it. No big deal. Just three stories.

The first story is about connecting the dots. I dropped out of Reed College after the first 6 months, but then stayed around as a drop-in for another 18 months or so before I really quit. So why did I drop out?

It started before I was born. My biological mother was a young, unwed college graduate student, and she decided to put me up for adoption. She felt very strongly that I should be adopted by college graduates, so everything was all set for me to be adopted at birth by a lawyer and his wife. Except that when I popped out they decided at the last minute that they really wanted a girl. So my parents, who were on a waiting list, got a call in the middle of the night asking: "We have an unexpected baby boy; do you want him?" They said: "Of course." My biological mother later found out that my mother had never graduated from college and that my father had never graduated from high school. She refused to sign the final adoption papers. She only relented a few months later when my parents promised that I would someday go to college.

And 17 years later I did go to college. But I naively chose a college that was almost as expensive as Stanford, and all of my working-class parents' savings were being spent on my college tuition. After six months, I couldn't see the value in it. I had no idea what I wanted to do with my life and no idea how college was going to help me figure it out. And here I was spending all of the money my parents had saved their entire life. So I decided to drop out and trust that it would all work out OK. It was pretty scary at the time, but looking back it was one of the best decisions I ever made. The minute I dropped out I could stop taking the required classes that didn't interest me, and begin dropping in on the ones that looked interesting.

It wasn't all romantic. I didn't have a dorm room, so I slept on the floor in friends' rooms, I returned coke bottles for the 5¢ deposits to buy food with, and I would walk the 7 miles across town every Sunday night to get one good meal a week at the Hare Krishna temple. I loved it. And much of what I stumbled into by following my curiosity and intuition turned out to be priceless later on. Let me give you one example:

Reed College at that time offered perhaps the best calligraphy instruction in the country. Throughout the campus every poster, every label on every drawer, was beautifully hand calligraphed. Because I had dropped out and didn't have to take the normal classes, I decided to take a calligraphy class to learn how to do this. I learned about serif and san serif typefaces, about varying the amount of space between different letter combinations, about what makes great typography great. It was beautiful, historical, artistically subtle in a way that science can't capture, and I found it fascinating...

--STOP YOUR TIMER--

COMPREHENSION QUIZ

- 1. The speaker tells us he never...**
 - a. Graduated from college
 - b. Attended college
 - c. Understood why people go to college
 - d. Regretted dropping out of college

- 2. The speaker dropped out of ____ College after the first ____ months, but he stayed around for another 18 months or so.**

- 3. The speaker's biological parents gave him up because they wanted a girl.**
 - a. True
 - b. False

- 4. The speaker's biological mother insisted all of the following except that...**
 - a. Her child be adopted by college graduates
 - b. Her child go to college
 - c. Her child would grow up with siblings

- 5. The speaker dropped out of college because...**
 - a. It was too expensive for his parents
 - b. He didn't see the value in it
 - c. He didn't know what he wanted to do in life
 - d. He figured it would work out "OK"
 - e. All of the above

- 6. Which of the following did the speaker not do to get by after dropping out of college?**
 - a. Return Coke bottles
 - b. Sleep on the floor
 - c. Walk long distances
 - d. Eat at a Hare Krishna Temple
 - e. Sell artwork



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QUIZ ANSWERS

1. (A) Graduated from college
2. Reed, 6
3. (B) False
4. (C) Her child would grow up with siblings
5. (E) All of the above
6. (E) Sell artwork

HOW TO CALCULATE YOUR COMPREHENSION & RETENTION

1. Total Correct Answers	2. Divide by 7	= Comprehension Percentage Score
Ex: 5	Ex: $5 \div 7$	= 71%

Record this number on the Progress & Goals Worksheet ↗