

NEWSPAPER ACTIVITIES

1. Give your student M&M candies and together make the sound /m/. Have the student write the letter m and then circle all the m's from the headlines on the front page of the newspaper. Ask him how many of those words he recognizes. Ask the student what sound m makes. Make word cards from some of the words. Discuss word patterns. (This activity is a tangible way to help student recognize and remember letter sounds.)
2. Ask your student to circle words beginning with each letter of the alphabet. If possible, give him a little reward if he gets them all. Since the letters x and z can be difficult to find, you may want to give him two "freebies," which means he can choose to skip over finding these two letters and still get the reward.
3. Ask your student to cut out five words or pictures from the newspaper that tell something about himself. Both student and tutor can do this together as an ice-breaker. (This is a great self-discovery exercise as well as aiding with word recognition.)
4. Ask your student to race through the newspaper and see how many numbers from 1-25 he can find in 10 minutes, circling each number as he finds it.
5. Using the front page of the newspaper ask your student to draw a circle around every blend and make a list of all the blends he finds.
6. Have your student circle all the singular nouns and pronouns in a news article in red and all plural nouns and pronouns in blue.
7. Ask your student to point out all the different punctuation marks used in a news article. Have him read the article aloud and notice the inflection of his voice in determining the place of punctuation.
8. Find examples of ten plural words in the newspaper. Write the root word next to each of the plural words you find.
9. Have your student make food/word flash cards from grocery ads by cutting out an illustration of a food item. Paste the word on the back of the card. For example, a picture of ham on one side with the word HAM on the other.

10. Collect pictures from the newspaper that show different facial expressions. Have your student write two or three words that describe each one.
11. Have your student find a comic strip showing a working woman.
12. Have your student find the score from a local sporting event.
13. Have your student find the telephone number to call to ask about home delivery of the newspaper.
14. Have your student find the names of the editor and publisher of the newspaper.
15. Have your student find newspaper examples of paragraphs written in present, past, and future tenses.
16. According to the index, on what pages are the following found: classified ads, sports, comics, opinions, Dear Abby, and entertainment?
17. Have your student find as many synonyms for “win” and “lose” as he can.
18. Select three headlines from the newspaper and have your student rewrite them as complete sentences.
19. Ask your student to pick a photo from the newspaper and make up a story about it. Do not read the caption yet. Ask and discuss the following: “What do you think is happening in this photo?” “Are the subjects in the photo happy or sad?” Have your student write a sentence about the photo. How does the sentence compare to original caption? Ask your student to write a paragraph about the photo. (This activity teaches inference, creative thinking, and writing skills.)
20. Find out your student’s interests – Sports? Music? Movies? Let him pick out a story that you can read to him. Ask him to summarize in his own words what you have read. Ask more advanced students to write a sentence or two about the story. (This activity teaches listening, comprehension and thinking skills.)
21. Have your student make a shopping list and clip coupons to match. How many of the items can be found in this week’s grocery ads? Compare prices with and without coupons.

22. Find a news article written in past tense. Have your student rewrite it in the present tense.
23. Tutor and student choose a favorite comic strip with at least four frames. Read aloud the strip with the student following along silently. Then read the comic strip together aloud. Cut out each frame and scramble. Ask student to put frames in order again. Check against a “master copy.” (This activity develops sequencing skills; reinforces that we read from left to right.)
24. Read a letter from an advice column (Ann Landers, Dear Abby, etc.) to the student, and ask him to respond to the original writer. How would student advise the letter writer? Talk about it, and then ask student to write a brief response. (Do this activity to develop comprehension, listening, critical thinking, writing skills.)
25. Using the newspaper ads, including classifieds, ask student to buy something for himself, a spouse or significant other, a friend, and a needy family. The tutor may suggest a specific amount of money or let student have unlimited “fantasy” funds. (This activity leads to self-discovery and creative thinking, and possibly aids math skills.)
26. Find a newspaper article that is about each of the following: a meeting of a government agency, a press conference, a disaster or unexpected happening, the schools. Read the article together and discuss it.
27. Find words in the newspaper that relate to quantity. For example: all, none, many, few, fewer, more, less, most etc.
28. Choose one story from the front page of today’s newspaper. Find the answers to these questions: Who? What? When? Where? Why? Note how details in the story are organized. Which is the most important? Where is it found in the story? Does the headline highlight the most important fact? If not, where did the information for the headline appear in the story?
29. Find a recipe in the food section of the newspaper. Examine the recipe’s ingredients to see if it includes enough of the nutrients necessary for a balanced diet. What other foods or recipes could you add to make a balanced meal?

30. Check the salary levels for unskilled workers in the help wanted section of the classified ads. Compare the salaries to those for skilled laborers or professional positions. What are the differences and why?
31. Look in the classified ads to find job listings for the medical/health positions. What is the pay range? Job requirements? Educational requirements? Benefits? Opportunities for advancement?
32. Over a period of several weeks, clip articles that deal with issues facing your local city government. Discuss the reason for these problems and how the government hopes to solve them.
33. Look for slogans used by businesses in their advertisements. Why do you think these particular slogans are used? Are they believable to you? To whom do they appeal, and what propaganda device is used? Create five pretend businesses and write slogans for them.
34. Choose an editorial from the editorial page in the newspaper and underline each fact and circle each opinion. Discuss the logic of the ideas and the organization and development of the arguments.
35. Select a job in the classified section of the newspaper. Write a letter to the Human Resources director of your chosen job stating what qualities make you perfect for that job.
36. Select three apartments listed in the "For Rent" section of the classified ads. For each of them, compute the total rent for a year. Determine the average monthly rent based on the apartments you have chosen. Which of those apartments appears to be the best choice for the money? Why?
37. Plan a menu for eight people. Add up the cost of ingredients; what is the average cost per person? Per serving? (This activity teaches life skills and math skills.)
38. Use recipes from the newspaper to practice using fractions. Double the recipe; halve the recipe; triple the recipe.