

TIPS FOR USING THE NEWSPAPER

Keep these points in mind as you begin using the newspaper with your adult learner:

1. Let your student's interests be a guide in planning your lessons using the newspaper.
2. For beginners limit your lessons to discussing the first paragraph of a story, a picture and its caption, headlines, or display ads. Gradually introduce longer news items as your student is ready for them.
3. Help your student focus on the item you plan to use by drawing a box around the item with a felt-tip pen. Fold the newspaper into quarters to make it a manageable size.
4. Focus on one article at a time. Remember, you are dealing with a lot of print – much of it too difficult for your student to read. Limit your activities to those that provide small, positive learning experiences for your student.
5. Read the article to your student, asking the “who, what, when, where, why, or how” of the story. In a given lesson, it may be good to focus on only one or two of these questions.
6. After reading a story to your student, ask him to circle letters or words he has learned or already knows. List the words for him to refer to as he searches the story.
7. Ask your student to choose a few words to learn from the article. Keep a list of new words on word cards for your student to practice on his own. Practice reading and writing the words in different contexts. Remember to introduce no more than six sight words on word cards in a given lesson.
8. Help your student understand what he is trying to read by asking questions and then discussing the article, both before and after he begins the activity. Remember the reading level of much of the newspaper will be beyond the abilities of a beginning student and represents a challenge for new readers to comprehend.
9. Introduce your student to different sections of the paper: sports, comics, advice, classified, etc., so he can locate information that interests him. Help him learn to locate this information by using the index on the front page.
10. Use the newspaper to provide real life reading experiences. An adaptation of the Language Experience Approach (LEA) is especially useful with the student who cannot read a newspaper article but has a particular interest in a story or section of the paper. Follow these steps:
 - a) Read the chosen story to your adult student.
 - b) Ask him to tell you what the story is about.
 - c) Write down exactly what the student says, leaving several spaces between each line. Be sure to print (use manuscript writing).
 - d) Read his story back to him, checking to see if you wrote it all down.

- e) Re-read parts or all of the original newspaper article, if necessary, to clear up confusion about the main idea of the story.
- f) Ask your student to read his story aloud with you while you point to each word as it is read.
- g) Let your student read his story alone. Give help as needed. Make a copy of the story so the student can take his story and the newspaper home. You may want to use the story as a source for sight words and word patterns.