

Electronic Gizmo Pushes Reader Into Faster and Faster Speeds

Students at El Camino College facing the Craig Reader for the first time, are not sure whether it's a television set or a movie projector. It is neither. The purpose of this machine is to help the student to read faster with more comprehension," Dr. Marvyl Doyle, English instructor, said.

THE STUDENT inserts a plastic slide of reading ma-

terial into the machine, and it is automatically positioned, ready to operate. A variable electronic speed adjustment permits reading and skimming ranges from 100 words per minute to over 1,000 words per minute. "Anyone who 'reads' above 800 or 900 words a minute is skimming at least part of the time," Dr. Doyle explained. There are 55 slide units for the 20-lesson course. At a self-

selected speed, the Craig Reader automatically feeds the film for a complete reading cycle. Each slide contains twelve 35mm frames rigidly mounted to keep the protected film in constant focus. AS AN INDIVIDUAL reading program, the Craig Reader can be used with minimum supervision and excellent improvement results. Group meetings are not necessary

since the Reader is used individually as a complete self-contained course. In the total program, the student is taught by three methods: Tachistoscopic or "Tach" reading, reading training slides and, practice reading where skills are transferred to the actual reading situation. THE TACH technique exposes digits, in series or one

at a time in various locations on the screen. After each digit is exposed, it is immediately covered before the next one is shown. The student is required to remember the digits in the same order they were exposed. This method improves both concentration and memory, as well as expanding the field of perception, which is essential for reading skill. The Craig reading program

also uses the expanded line technique. The lessons progress from short lines of about three words to long lines of over seven words. Since only one line at a time is exposed, the reader develops more efficient eye movements. AFTER EVERY lesson, the student has a comprehension test, where the skills learned are transferred to the reading situation. Finally, he reads an-

other exercise in a regular reading workbook. The two-hour class period is divided into lecture and activity sessions. The lectures are devoted to physical and psychological aspects of reading, demonstrations of various reading and study techniques, and discussions of individual reading problems. A variety of people have enrolled in the program. "We've had teachers, engineers, li-

brarians, technical writers, people in business, a doctor, and even an air force test pilot," Dr. Doyle commented. "WE GET some very good readers, and some students who need help. But even the person who needs help is capable of learning," Dr. Doyle continued. At present, eight sections of the reading course are offered at El Camino each semester.

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