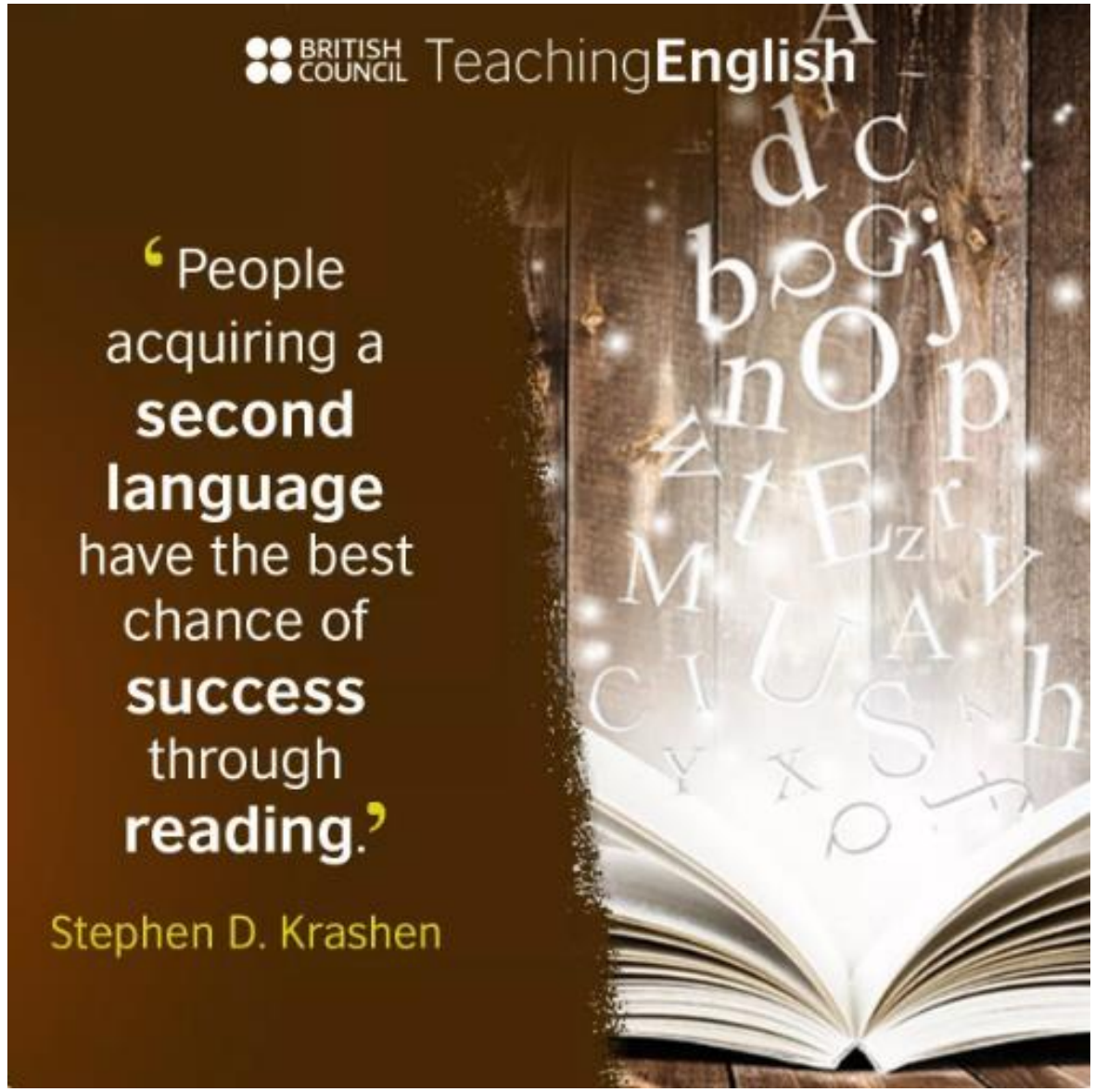
Teaching Reading

ETAS AGM and Conference

Zug, 18 January 2020

Urs Kalberer

umkm@sunrise.ch


BRITISH COUNCIL TeachingEnglish
‘People acquiring a second language have the best chance of success through reading.’
Stephen D. Krashen

Balloon: Questions

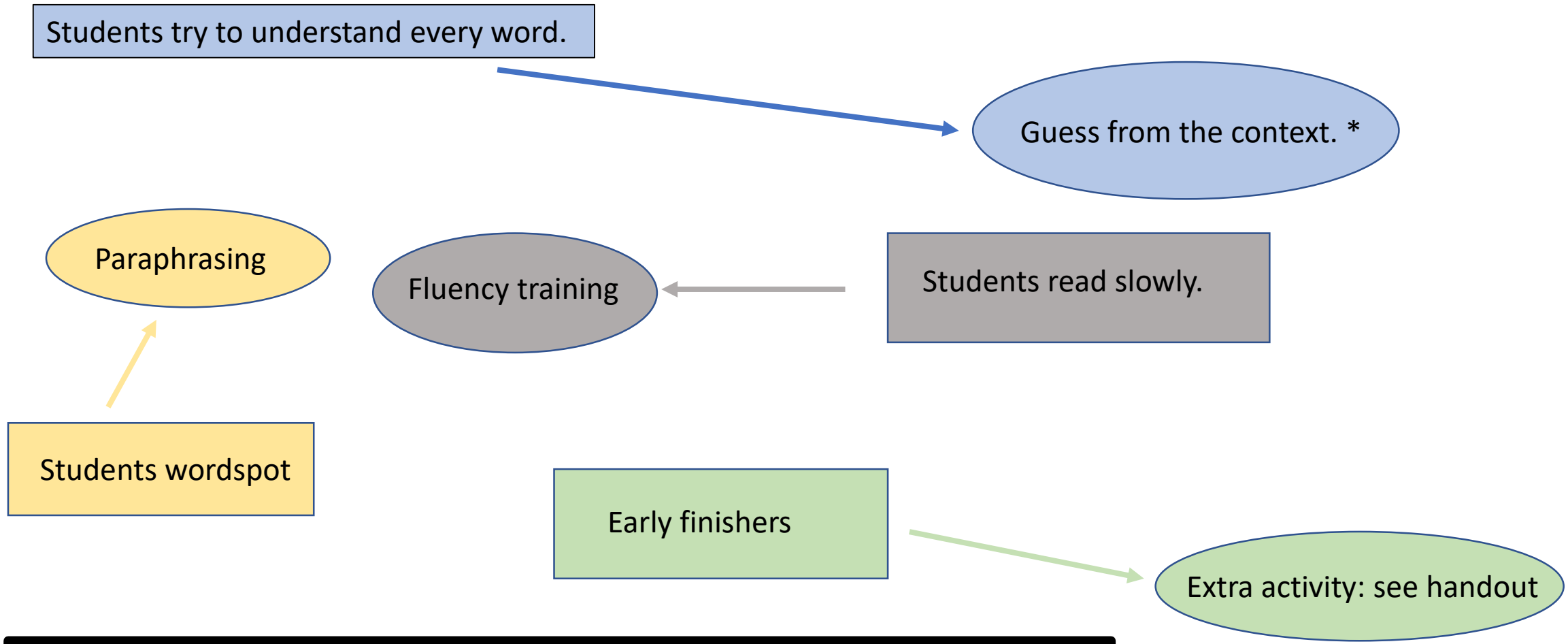
1. How many different reading activities do you know?
2. What does a typical reading lesson look like?
3. What is the most difficult thing in reading?

Difficulties of reading

- Decode the _____ of letters quickly
- Match that to our _____knowledge
- Use grammar knowledge to _____words into meaningful units
- Use discourse knowledge to understand how one piece of text _____to another
- Use _____knowledge
- Make _____to understand what is not explicitly stated

Fill in: *relates, background, lexical, inferences, combination, group*

Problems of teaching reading



* In order to guess the meaning from the context you need to know 95% of the words of a text (Paul Nation).

Fluency development with newspapers

The Herald

- Match titles and articles
- Match pictures and titles
- Match pictures and captions
- Read a selected article. Then answer the questions who, where, what, when, why, how. Then tell the class about it.
- Find specific grammar forms in the texts.
- Localize stories on a map (take the sports, home, international etc. section of the paper)
- Time line

THE TIMES

spreeder

Scanning

As universities opened in September for a new year, six million young people around the world demonstrated on the streets for climate action. The power of these demonstrations showed the need for urgent action on the environment. So what now? For freshers just starting at university, deciding how to live your life is very important. Here are some ideas for how you can be sustainable as a student.

Eating

What you eat is important: nearly a quarter of all greenhouse gases come from agriculture, and most of those are from meat and dairy. Giving up meat is an easy way to reduce your carbon footprint, and you'll save money, too. A meat-free diet has been recommended as the "singlebiggest way" an individual can help the planet. Eating meat and dairy creates excessive land and water use, industrial emissions, methane and deforestation.

Websites

Rewordify.com
Understand what you read.

ReadWorks.org

newsela

Breaking News English
2,828 Free English News Lessons in 7 Levels

Vowel Remover

BRITISH COUNCIL

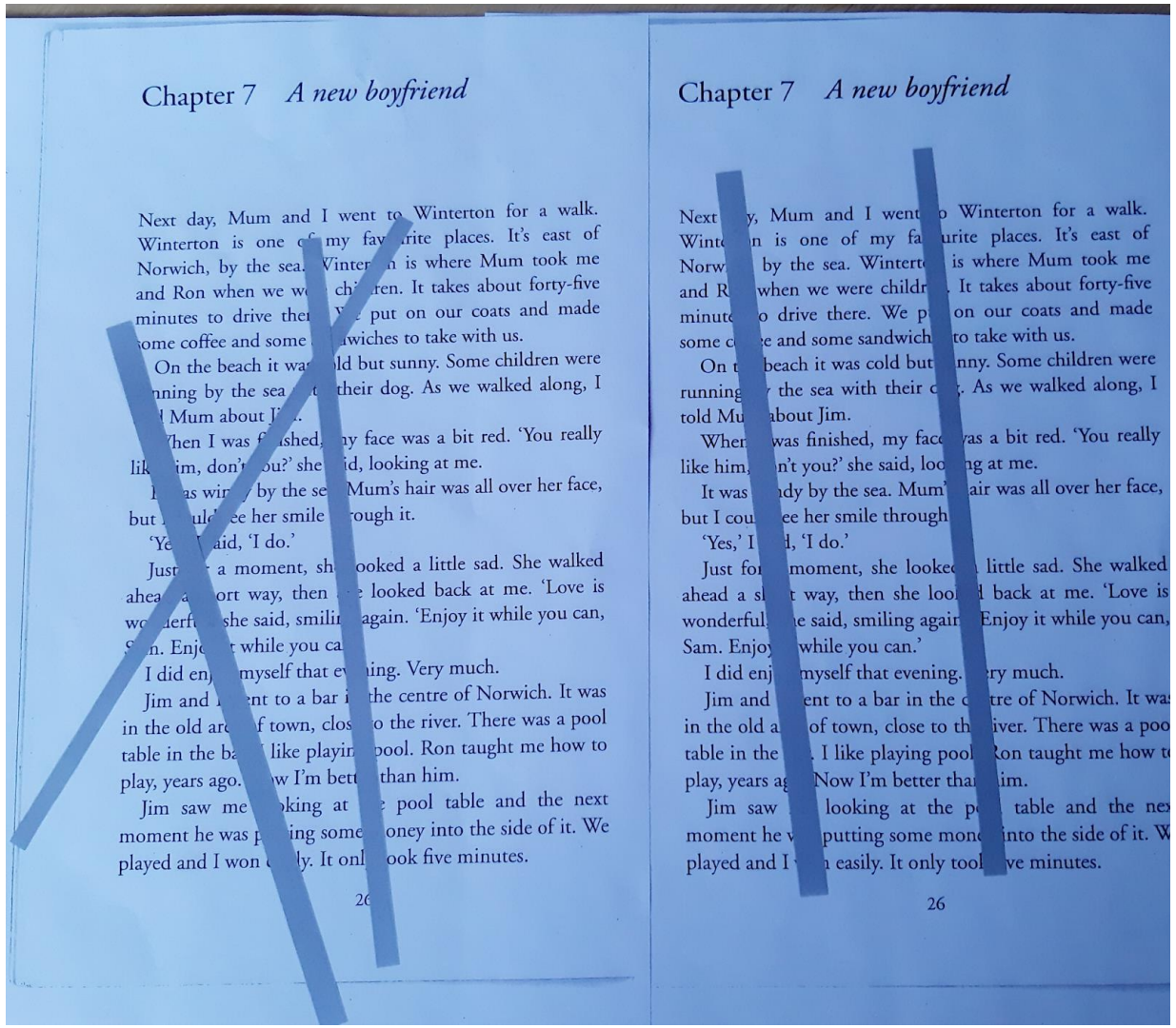
LearnEnglish Teens

Extensive reading

Focus on morphology

Noun	Verb	Adjective	Opposite
danger	endanger	dangerous	safety

Paper strips



Chapter 7 *A new boyfriend*

Next day, Mum and I went to Winterton for a walk. Winterton is one of my favourite places. It's east of Norwich, by the sea. Winterton is where Mum took me and Ron when we were children. It takes about forty-five minutes to drive there. We put on our coats and made some coffee and some sandwiches to take with us.

On the beach it was cold but sunny. Some children were running by the sea with their dog. As we walked along, I told Mum about Jim.

When I was finished, my face was a bit red. 'You really like him, don't you?' she said, looking at me.

It was windy by the sea. Mum's hair was all over her face, but I could see her smile through it.

'Yes,' I said, 'I do.'

Just for a moment, she looked a little sad. She walked ahead a short way, then she looked back at me. 'Love is wonderful,' she said, smiling again. 'Enjoy it while you can, Sam. Enjoy it while you can.'

I did enjoy myself that evening. Very much.

Jim and I went to a bar in the centre of Norwich. It was in the old area of town, close to the river. There was a pool table in the bar. I like playing pool. Ron taught me how to play, years ago. Now I'm better than him.

Jim saw me looking at the pool table and the next moment he was putting some money into the side of it. We played and I won easily. It only took five minutes.

Chapter 7 *A new boyfriend*

Next day, Mum and I went to Winterton for a walk. Winterton is one of my favourite places. It's east of Norwich, by the sea. Winterton is where Mum took me and Ron when we were children. It takes about forty-five minutes to drive there. We put on our coats and made some coffee and some sandwiches to take with us.

On the beach it was cold but sunny. Some children were running by the sea with their dog. As we walked along, I told Mum about Jim.

When I was finished, my face was a bit red. 'You really like him, don't you?' she said, looking at me.

It was windy by the sea. Mum's hair was all over her face, but I could see her smile through it.

'Yes,' I said, 'I do.'

Just for a moment, she looked a little sad. She walked ahead a short way, then she looked back at me. 'Love is wonderful,' she said, smiling again. 'Enjoy it while you can, Sam. Enjoy it while you can.'

I did enjoy myself that evening. Very much.

Jim and I went to a bar in the centre of Norwich. It was in the old area of town, close to the river. There was a pool table in the bar. I like playing pool. Ron taught me how to play, years ago. Now I'm better than him.

Jim saw me looking at the pool table and the next moment he was putting some money into the side of it. We played and I won easily. It only took five minutes.

Interacting with the text

Read the text and add these symbols as appropriate:

✓	= I agree with this
X	= I disagree with this
?	= I don't understand fully
Λ	= I need/want more explanation
↔	= compare this to…
!	= this is surprising/shocking
lol	= this is funny

Idea: Peter Watkins

Matching

Take away the headings and match them with the texts.

Activity holidays Our activity holidays are for everyone, people who love danger or who just like sports. We have a huge variety of water, snow or desert holidays. We'll take you SCUBA diving in the Red Sea or kayaking and white water rafting in Canada. If you prefer snow, you can try skiing or snowboarding in the Alps or even igloo-building. For those who like warmer weather, we also have sandboarding (the desert version of skateboarding) or camel safaris.

Polar expeditions Take a cruise to Antarctica or the northern Arctic; explore a land of white natural beauty and wonderful wildlife. Our experts will explain everything about the two poles as you watch the penguins in Antarctica or whales and polar bears in the Arctic. There's no greater adventure than travelling to the ends of the earth. A once-in-a-lifetime experience!

Cultural journeys Our cultural journeys will help you discover ancient civilisations: India, Thailand, Egypt and many more. Visit temples, palaces and ancient ruins — just remember to bring your camera! Get to know local ways of life by exploring markets, trying exotic foods and meeting local people.

Trekking tours We have trekking holidays to famous places such as Machu Picchu or the Everest Base Camp Trek, as well as some nearer to home in the Highlands of Scotland. You don't need to be very sporty, just fairly fit. You'll have a great time enjoying nature with a group of new friends. Some of the holidays include camping, but we'll transport the tents for you!

Wildlife holidays We organise small group tours to get closer to nature in Africa, Asia or South America. Go on safari in Africa and watch lions and giraffes. Meet the famous turtles of the Galapagos Islands. Look for tigers in India, or take an elephant safari in Sri Lanka. We use local guides and stay in a range of accommodation, from tents to tree houses.

Jigsaw reading

Preparation: Cut the first sentence of each paragraph of a longer text.

Put class in pairs. Then distribute the first sentences to the pairs and let them match the sentences with the paragraphs. Hand out another first sentence to the pairs as soon as they have finished the first one.

Reading aloud

Stand up / sit down -
The teacher chooses six words from a chosen section of the text and writes these on the board. Each student chooses three of these words and makes a note of these in their notebook. The teacher reads the chosen section of the text aloud and students read along in silence, but stand up and then quickly sit down again every time they hear/read their chosen words.

Click / clap -
The teacher reads the chosen section of the text aloud and students read along in silence. Every time they teacher gets to a full stop/period the students clap their hands once. Every time the teacher gets to a comma the students click their fingers once.

No spaces

Newresearchshowsthatitisbadforchildrentowatch TV,tabletormobilephonescreensbeforebedtime.ResearchersfromtheUniversityofColoradofoundthat"screentime"beforesleepingdamageschildren'shealth.Theresearcherslookedatover60differentstudiesonhowscreentimeaffectschildren.Theysaid:"Ofmorethanfivedozenstudieslookingatchildrenagedfrom5to17aroundtheworld,90percenthavefoundthatmorescreentimeisassociatedwithdelayedbedtime,fewerhoursofsleep,andpoorersleepquality."Screensarebecomingsmallerandsmaller,sochildrencanlookattheminbed.Morethan75percentofchildreninthestudyhadsomekindofscreenintheirbedroom.

Reading for detail

1. Choose a text and blank out some of the prepositions, connectives and pronouns.

2. Divide the class into three groups. Give one group the text and ask them to fill in all of the prepositions. Give the second group the text and ask them to fill in all the connectives. Give the third group the text and ask them to fill in all of the pronouns.

3. When they have finished their task, re-group the learners into groups of three with one learner from each group. They can then test each other on which words should go in the gaps.

Find the additional words

The biography of Nelson Mandela reads like a morality tale. Here is a man who is subjected by a racist society to years of imprisonment, for most of the time in with degrading and humiliating conditions, who emerges a quarter of a century later to become president of his country and Nobel Peace Prize winner.

Nelson Mandela came slowly to political activism. He grew up as a reasonably privileged child well and was not exposed to the racial discrimination which was becoming institutionalized in his country until he was at university at the age of 24. But once he recognized to the injustices, he could not remain silent and he was expelled from the University of Fort Hare in 1940 for taking part in a student demonstration. He did not give up on after his university degree, however, eventually completing the course by correspondence in 1942. He went on to become the first black student at the University of Witwatersrand, where he studied law, although he never completed the course.

Further examples of bottom-up processing

- Colour linking words
- Colour fact and opinion
- Take out one sentence from a text. Students have to place it back again.
- Add a word that does not belong into the text.

Comprehension questions

Far too often comprehension questions do not test the understanding of text but simply wordspotting.

Comprehension questions have several weaknesses:

- a single right answer
- a lack of authenticity
- a lack of joy
- often only superficial understanding required
- often focusing on trivial, insignificant information

Example: ***Splag grigged the flug spraggily in the scroog.***

Alternatives are:

- Smurfing
- True/false/don’t know
- Let the students come up with their own comprehension questions.
- Complete sentences about the text: The boy left home because …
- Put the paragraphs into the correct order
- Fill in sentences at the correct place in the text

Read this passage on the Smurfs. In normal English, what would the underlined *smurf* words be?

The Smurfs are a fictitious group of small blue creatures that smurf in a forest somewhere in Europe. Smurf language is famous for smurfing certain nouns and verbs with the smurf ‘smurf’. The viewer or reader will usually be able to smurf out the meaning of the word from its smurf.

(Answers: live, replacing, word, work, context)

Kahoot!