

Extensive Reading and Listening: Practical ideas for the classroom



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These slides have been slightly edited from the original ones shown during the February 24th workshop. Screenshots of certain websites and some online examples have been cut due to possible copyright issues, etc.

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“ER is based on the well-established principle that we learn to read by reading” (Day, 2015, p. 10).

“When learners do extensive reading, they learn a lot of things without realizing that learning is going on” (Nation & Waring, 2020, p.68).

“Most importantly, graded and extensive reading and listening are primarily about meaning. The aim is to read, or listen to, massive amounts of comprehensible language within one’s comfort zone” (Waring, 2006, p. 46).

What about intensive reading though?

What's the difference between intensive reading and extensive reading?

Discuss with your partner.

How do students feel about extensive reading compared to intensive reading? Which is better for actually learning English?

Sample data from Wood (2023) study: Extensive Reading vs. Intensive Reading - 36 university students

1. With learning English, which do you think you are best at (circle only one).

Speaking

Reading

Writing

Listening

2. Do you like reading in Japanese?

YES

NO

3. Do you like to read in English?

YES

NO

4. Have you ever done extensive reading (多読) in English before?

YES

NO

5. Have you ever done intensive reading (精読) in English before?

YES

NO

6. Which do you think is better for improving your English reading skills?

Extensive reading (多読)

Intensive reading (精読)

7. What's the most difficult thing about learning to read in English? Write one or two sentences.

1. With learning English, which do you think you are best at (circle only one)

Speaking: **6** Reading: **23** Writing: **0** Listening: **7**

2. Do you like reading in Japanese?

YES: **23** NO: **13**

3. Do you like to read in English?

YES: **15** NO: **21**

4. Have you ever done extensive reading (多読) in English before?

YES: **17** NO: **19**

5. Have you ever done intensive reading (精読) in English before?

YES: **26** NO: **10**

6. Which do you think is better for improving your English reading skills?

Extensive reading (多読): **29** Intensive reading (精読): **7**

7. What's the most difficult thing about learning to read in English? Write one or two sentences.

“It's difficult to learn vocabulary.”

“Because of a lack of vocabulary, when I met unknown words, I need to guess.”

“I think intensive reading has difficult words and is difficult to understand to me. I have to look up many words.”

Sample comments from interviews

“Intensive reading is so difficult words, so I checked, I translate and so, but extensive reading is more useful words so I take memos. The class style, for intensive reading is just reading and the teacher says grammar or something, so it’s not very useful because it’s just listening. With extensive reading, we summarize and talk with others and ask opinions.” - Honoka

“Based on my experience, I would choose extensive reading. I think because it’s way more fun for one...So, you get to learn a lot and you get to know what’s frequent or not in the language...Intensive reading, I would say is mainly for people who really just want to learn about a specific topic or specific material, like academic papers.” - Tomo

“When I did extensive reading, it was mostly stories like Spiderman and stuff like that. I felt it was too easy to read and that I didn’t really learn anything.” - Risa

Practical ideas and activities for promoting ER

Step 1: Teach students how to use the library



Use children's books to quickly build students' confidence



1. Did reading children's books this semester help you improve your English reading skills? **YES - 59** **NO - 9**

2. Do you think reading children's books out loud to your partner helped your English pronunciation? **YES - 54** **NO - 14**

3. Did you enjoy reading children's books in English in this class? **YES - 58** **NO - 10**

These are 3 sample survey questions taken from the second survey administered at the end of the semester. These data come from a larger research project.

Improving book discussions: Brainstorming questions

- With your partner, make a list of interesting questions you could ask someone about a book they're reading.
- Try to write down at least 10 questions.
- Remember, interesting questions = interesting discussions.



After all the lists are finished, they are collected by the instructor and then a master list of the best questions is printed and given to students in the next class.

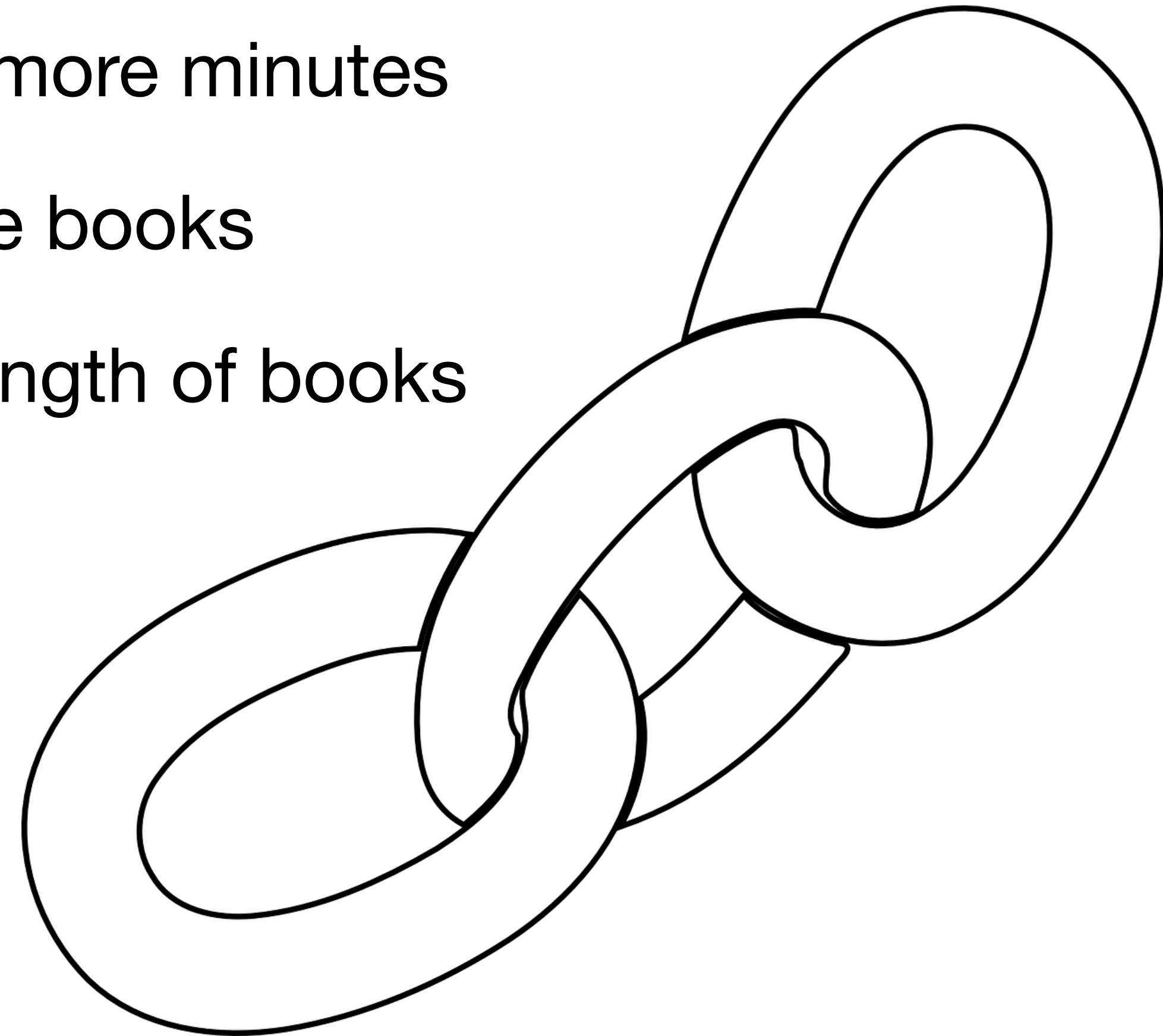
Communication Skills - Friday period 3

Book discussion questions

1. Do you care if your book has pictures or not?
2. How long did it take you to read it?
3. What character do you like?
4. When did you read it?
5. What was your favorite scene in the book?
6. How often do you read books?
7. What genre of books do you like?
8. Do you think the book was easy to read?
9. Who was the main character?
10. What kind of person was the main character? (their personality - brave, smart, crazy, etc.)
11. How many books did you read this week?
12. What points did you like about the book?
13. Did the book change your life?
14. Was the book difficult for you?
15. Which character would you like to be? Why?
16. How was the story?

Chain reading activity with graded readers:

- Have students start reading a new book book of their choice for five minutes
- Students then tell each other what happened in their books so far
- Then have students swap books and read for five more minutes
- Students tell each other what happened next in the books
- Continue the process depending on time and/or length of books



So, what happened so far in the book?

Who are the main characters?

What else happened?

What do you think is going to happen next?

So, how did it end? What happened?

What else happened?

Did you like how it ended?

Was there anything you didn't understand about the story?

Which book did you like better? Why?

One sentence summary

After reading your book, try and write a one sentence summary about it. Can you fit the basic story into one sentence?

Write your summary for the book you started with during the previous activity.

My book was about yada yada yada
and how some guy

