**Components of Skilled Reading**

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| Reading is a complicated process that can be broken down into 5 different levels:1) Detection of visual features of letters leading to letter recognition* Letters can come in many different forms, from different fonts to handwritten and script
* The reader must be able to extract the defining features of the letter
	+ E.g.  While B B B all look slightly different, we are able to discern that they are all the letter B based on defining features, like the vertical line on the left attached to two half circles.

2) Grapheme-Phoneme correspondence* This is the relationship between a letter and the sound it represents
* Alphabetic principle is where letters represent sounds
* Orthography is the system of this grapheme-phoneme correspondence
	+ Shallow orthographies have nearly perfect one-to-one grapheme-phoneme relationships, i.e. a letter is representative of a single sound
		- Italian is a language with a shallow orthography
	+ Deep orthographies have highly variable grapheme to phoneme relationships
		- E.g. English: the letter "I" can be pronounced like *I* or like th I in *bit* or like the I in *radio*
* A perfect alphabetic system must follow three rules:
	+ It would be simple: there would be a one-to-one correspondence between each symbol and sound
	+ It would be transparent: the grapheme name and the sound it represents would be identical
	+ It would be completely regular: there would be no exceptions to the  two rules above
* Achieving fluency in a language requires achieving mastery of irregularities within the language.
	+ Since English is a deep orthography, it is one of the most difficult languages to become fluent in, due to its high amount of irregularities
* Segmentation is the process of breaking a word into its constituent phonemes, something we may employ when faced with a word we must pronounce.
	+ This is not as easy as it seems, in the simple three letter word, *cat*there are three distinct phonemes: /k/ /æ/ /t/
	+ Children usually require formal instruction before acquiring explicit knowledge of segmentation
		- Nursery rhymes help teach children about segmentation by juxtaposing similar words that differ in only a single phoneme
* Other languages, like Chinese, are not based on alphabetic principle as their symbols represent words, not sounds.  This allows for a different learning process of rote memorization instead of grapheme-phoneme correspondence

3) Word Recognition* The ability to recognize letter strings as words in the language
* 3 types of words
	+ True words: words following orthographic conventions and that actually exist in the language (e.g. King)
	+ Nonsense words: words that follow the orthographic conventions, but do not exist in the language (e.g. Gink)
	+ False words: words that do not follow the orthographic convention (e.g. nkgi)

4) Semantic Knowledge* The possible meanings stimulated by recognition of a word
	+ refers to all possible information about the word and its relationship to other words and real-world objects

5) Comprehension and Interpretation* The ability to take a text as a whole and understand it
* Depends on a number of slowly developing skills
	+ Automaticity of word recognition
	+ Vocabulary size
	+ Capacity of working memory
	+ World knowledge
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