

This newsletter was sent to [email address suppressed].
Trouble reading this email? [Read the online version.](#)
[Forward this email to a friend.](#)

readsters reader

Supporting Excellent Reading Instruction

Volume 1, Number 3
Fall 2010

"Kids can't love to read unless they CAN read."

- Michael Kamil, Plain Talk Conference 2010

.....

Welcome to Readsters' Fall Newsletter!

The Readsters Reader provides current information to support excellent reading instruction. The topics in this edition are:

- **Related to Reading:** The Three Sounds of Suffix *-ed*
- **Research Review:** The Value of Nonsense Words
- **Recommended Reading:** *A Little Book of Language* by David Crystal
- **Readsters Responds:** *What specific assessments do you recommend for determining readers' needs?*
- **Recommended Roadtrips:** A list of recommended conferences or workshops that are open to the public
- **Readsters Roadtrips:** A list of our upcoming workshops and conferences where Readsters is speaking

Our newsletter is published three or four times each year. We welcome your suggestions for topics, research articles, books, and questions you would like to see included in upcoming newsletters.

Our Readsters.com website is expanding!
Watch for an upcoming announcement about all the new features.

- Linda Farrell, Michael Hunter, and Tina Osenga
newsletter@readsters.com

.....

Related to Reading

The Three Sounds of Suffix -ed

waited grabbed jumped

Each of these three words ends with the suffix *-ed* . All three appear to the eye as two syllable words. Your ears, however, tell you that only *waited* has two spoken syllables.

No wonder our students think English spelling is crazy!

In *waited* the letter **e** spells the schwa vowel sound (/ə/). But in *grabbed* and *jumped* the letter **e** is not spelling a sound at all. In these words the suffix *-ed* only adds a consonant sound (/d/ and /t/ respectively), not a syllable.

So, what are we to tell our students about the suffix *-ed*? [Read More...](#)

.....
Research Review

The Value of Nonsense Words

Several well-regarded norm-referenced, criterion-based, and informal assessments use nonsense words to test a student’s ability to decode. A number of intervention programs for poor readers also include reading nonsense words as part of the instruction. On occasion, a reading teacher or coach will question us about the value of assessing and teaching nonsense words and ask if any research supports using nonsense words.

Research about Nonsense Words

Indeed, a large body of research supports the use of nonsense words. Virtually all research around nonsense words focuses on their value in assessing a student’s decoding abilities. The conclusion of a number of studies is that “Compared with other reading subskills, such as vocabulary and verbal memory, pseudoword [Read more...](#)

.....
Recommended Reading

A Little Book of Language

By David Crystal
Yale University Press: 2010
ISBN 978-0-300-15533-4
\$13.75 on Amazon.com; \$25.00 list price

David Crystal is a noted British linguist and one of our favorite scholars of language. We use his reference books *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language* and *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Language* to answer esoteric questions. We also enjoy other stories, histories, and commentaries by Crystal such as *The Stories of English* and *The Fight for English: How Language Pundits Ate, Shot, and Left*.

His newest book, *A Little Book of Language* , is a quick, entertaining read. This book is written for young adolescents and it provides basic information about linguistics for

anyone with little or no linguistics background. *A Little Book of Language* is a broad overview of the development of language, both oral and written. Readers will learn about a variety of topics, such as [Read more...](#)

.....

Readsters Responds

Question: *What specific assessment(s) do you recommend for determining what a reader's needs are? For RTI in our bulding, we want to match the very best intervention for each student's needs.*

Submitted by Luana Baltozer

While this seems like a fairly simple question the answer is not at all simple. Reading is a complex activity involving many skills and abilities executed simultaneously. So, determining a student's needs is not always simple. [Read more...](#)

This section of our newsletter is dedicated to sharing answers to questions that you, our readers, ask and to questions commonly presented during workshops. We will include answers to questions that others may find interesting or helpful. Please email us at newsletter@readsters.com with your questions, as well as suggestions for topics, books, or research articles you would like to see in future newsletters.

.....

Recommended Roadtrips

IDA 61st Annual International Conference

October 27-30, 2010 - Phoenix AZ

- National conference presented by International Dyslexia Association (IDA)
- Presentations on scientific research and teaching practices related to reading.
- For more information [click here](#).

LETRS Summit

January 18-20, 2011 - Nashville TN

- *Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling* (LETRS)
- National conference on research-based reading instruction for all grade levels
- This is a chance to meet and learn from Dr. Louisa Moats, a leading reading expert who is both knowledgeable and personable
- Presentations by leading literacy researchers and experts expand participants' knowledge of research, introduce new and updated LETRS materials, and relate LETRS to classroom teaching and intervention
- For more information [click here](#).

Learning & the Brain Conferences

* *iGeneration: How the Digital Age is Altering Student Brains, Learning & Teaching*

February 17-19, 2011- San Francisco CA

* *The Science of Success: Optimizing Student Achievement & Reducing Failure*

May 5-7, 2011 - Chicago IL

- The *Learning & the Brain* conferences present the best and most recent brain research, and relate the research to teaching and learning.

- Conferences are held several times a year in various locations, including San Francisco, Cambridge MA, Washington DC, and Chicago.
- Linda attended this conference for the first time last May. She left with a wealth of new information about how the brain works and many ideas for using the new information to help teachers and students.
- For more information [click here](#).

Plain Talk About Reading

May 4-7, 2011 - New Orleans LA

- National conference presented by Center for Development and Learning (CDL)
- Presentations of the latest research and best practices, with an opportunity to network with some of the best in the business
- Year after year attendees say that this is the best reading conference they have ever attended.
- For more information [click here](#).

.....
Readsters Roadtrips

School/District Based Workshops and Support

Arkansas

- KIPP Blytheville College Preparatory School (September, October, November)
- KIPP Delta Elementary Literacy Academy (September, October, November)

Colorado

- Cherry Creek School District (September, October, November)

Louisiana

- ReNEW Charter Schools (September)

Maryland

- Hurlock Elementary School (September)
- Maple Elementary School (September)

Texas

- Houston ISD (October)

Washington

- Striving Readers (October)

Wyoming

- Wyoming Indian Elementary School (September)
- Wyoming Indian Middle School (September)
- Wyoming Indian High School (September)
- Wind River Schools (September)
- Shoshoni Elementary School (September)
- Rendezvous Elementary School (September, November)
- Riverton K-3 Elementary Schools (September, December)

Conferences Where Readsters Is Speaking

Illinois Branch of the IDA

October 14-15 - Oakbrook Terrace IL

- *The Simple View of Reading* (Linda)
- *Assessing Decoding* (Linda)
- *Effective Vocabulary Instruction: Throw Away the Dictionary* (Linda)

Maryland State Education Association

October 16 - Ocean City MD

- *Teaching Tips for Motivating Struggling Readers* (Michael)

11th Annual Dyslexia Conference, Region 4

December 2 - Houston TX

- Keynote: *The Simple View of Reading* (Linda)
- *Lose the Rules: Teaching Multi-Syllable Words* (Linda)
- *Solving the Mysteries of Spelling by Learning About the History of the English Language* (Linda)
- *Diagnosing Decoding Deficiencies* (Linda)
- *Fluency Is More Than Rate: Giving Accuracy, Fluency, and Prosody the Right Emphasis* (Michael)
- *Teaching and Assessing Phonological Awareness* (Michael)

2011 Courage to Risk Conference

January 28, 2011 - Colorado Springs CO

- *Feeling Like a Struggling Reader: Three Reading Simulations* (Tina)

Unmasking Their Potential Conference

January 29, 2011 - Louisiana Center for Dyslexia & Related Learning Disorders of Nicholls State University

- *Topics to be determined.* (Linda, Michael, Tina)

Plain Talk About Reading

May 4-7, 2011 - New Orleans LA

- *Topics to be determined.* (Linda, Michael)



For further information about Readsters or to update your information please email us at newsletter@readsters.com.

801 North Pitt Street
Suite 105
Alexandria, VA 22314

703.535.7355 office
703.997.4817 fax
www.readsters.com

To Unsubscribe from Readsters Reader [click here](#).