

“Does the Internet Make You Dumber?”

from *The Wall Street Journal*

by Nicholas Carr

This reading has been excerpted from the following source:

Carr, N. (2010, June 05). Does the internet make you dumber?. *The Wall Street Journal*.

Retrieved from <http://online.wsj.com/home-page>

Reading Questions

These questions will help you to identify the main ideas and arguments in the reading. It's a good idea to review these questions before you begin reading, to keep them in mind while you read, and to answer them after you finish reading. If you aren't sure how to answer one or more questions, you should re-read the relevant part(s) of the article.

1. According to Nicholas Carr, how does information technology (e.g., the internet, multimedia presentations, email) affect understanding, memory, and creativity?
2. Why does Carr believe that the ability to concentrate – to pay “deep attention” – is so important?
3. Which cognitive skills does computer technology seem to strengthen and which does it seem to weaken?
4. Why might it not be possible to reduce the negative effects of information technology by minimizing our use of computers?
5. How does the technology of the printed book differ from the technology of the internet? In what sense is surfing the internet more “natural” than reading a book?