Reading comprehension is the active and intentional process of understanding and interpreting written text. It goes beyond simply recognizing words and involves a complex, strategic interaction between the reader, the text, and the reader's prior knowledge. Proficient comprehension relies on a number of foundational skills, including decoding words, reading fluently, and possessing a strong vocabulary. Good readers actively employ a variety of strategies both before, during, and after reading to construct meaning, such as previewing the text, asking questions, visualizing what is being described, and summarizing key points. Ultimately, the goal is not just to read the words, but to grasp the author's purpose and internalize the information for deeper, critical understanding.

Short videos have a dual effect on reading comprehension: they can improve it by making learning more engaging, visual, and accessible, especially for visual learners and struggling students. However, the rapid-fire, entertainment-driven nature of many short videos can negatively impact it by promoting a "surface learning" approach, reducing sustained focus, and hindering deep analytical thinking.

According to Bartlett (1932), schema theory posits that comprehension is not a passive process but rather an active reconstruction in which readers use their prior knowledge to interpret and understand written passages

**How short videos can hurt reading comprehension**

* **Encourage surface learning:** The constant stream of new content can lead to a "surface learning" approach where viewers process information superficially rather than deeply.

Bartlett, F. C. (1932). Remembering: A study in experimental and social psychology. Cambridge University Press.

* **Decrease focus stamina:** Rapid switching between videos can reduce the brain's ability to sustain attention on a single, longer task, such as a book or a detailed assignment (Psychiatry Counseling, Counseling psychology, Morgan Virtual Psychiatry, 2025)

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Psychiatry Counseling, Counseling psychology, Morgan Virtual Psychiatry. (2025, October 22). *Are short reels making our attention spans shorter?* Psychiatry Counseling | Counseling Psychology | Morgan Virtual Psychiatry. <https://www.morganvirtualpsychiatry.com/are-short-reels-making-our-attention-spans-shorter/#:~:text=Decreased%20Focus%20Stamina,immediate%20reward%20starts%20to%20diminish>.

* [**Hinder analytical thinking:**](../decision%20making/thinking.docx) The fast-paced nature of short videos can suppress slower, more analytical thinking processes required for in-depth comprehension.

 (click on **HINDER ANALYTICAL**)

Otto, T. (2025). Should educators be concerned? The impact of short videos on rational thinking and learning: A comparative analysis. *Computers & Education*, 105330. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.compedu.2025.105330>

* **Lead to over-reliance on entertainment:**

Students may consume educational content in a mindset of entertainment rather than learning, which can reduce the effort and depth of processing Otto, T. (2025b).

Otto, T. (2025b). Should educators be concerned? The impact of short videos on rational thinking and learning: A comparative analysis. *Computers & Education*, 105330. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.compedu.2025.105330>

(Otto, 2025b)

Otto (2025b)

**Can Be use as a suggestion:**

*The Effects of Watching Videos in Pre-reading on Learners’ Reading Comprehension and Attitudes*