**Auditory distraction during reading: A meta-analysis of a continuing controversy**

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Abstract

*Keywords*: auditory distraction, reading, background noise, speech, music

Imagine that you are sitting in an open-plan office and reading a paper, while a couple of your colleagues are having a loud conversation just a few meters away. Is this external noise going to affect the time it takes you to read the paper or your ability to understand its contents? For many people, the intuitive answer to this question is “Yes”, as it would seem reasonable that external sounds such as noise, speech or music influence how we read sentences by acting as a distractor. Indeed

Researchers have occupied themselves with this question for at least 80 years.

Citations for: speech is perceived as distracting by office workers (see Haapakangas et al., 2014)