

Why and How of Reading

We incessantly read, we believe it or not. Be it roadside hoardings, visuals in shiny displays (laptops, cell phones, movie screens and many more) or the conventional print media (books, magazines, posters, newspapers etc.), we endlessly interpret the words, phrases, symbols and slogans for their meanings, undertones, emotions, and implicit expressions.

But, is that all we mean by 'READING'? Is it an involuntary reflex of a trained mind to a set of letters and symbols? Or is it merely an intellectual exercise of deciphering the intricate account (e.g. a research article) of an otherwise ordinary experiment?

Despite knowing the (advertised versions of) treasures and pleasures of reading, many of us would hesitate to put off their digital (and mental) distractions for the single act of reading. Perhaps because we hardly realize what we actually know! Someone puts it cleverly in other words – *a man doesn't know what he knows until he knows what he doesn't know*. So why not to spend an hour or two together and search out our own versions of response to the questions such as...

Is reading absolutely essential?

What is at stake when I refuse to read?

I'm literate; I know everything I need to know about 'reading'. Isn't it?

Let us think aloud and contribute to a pool of shared perceptions – about 'Why' and 'How' of Reading.