

“Environments are invisible to those who are in them.” –Marshall McLuhan

NEW READERS LEARN FASTER WITH THE UPPERCASE ALPHABET

NEW AND HESITANT READERS, YOUNG OR OLD, LEARN FASTER WITH SIMPLE SANS SERIF (NO LITTLE LINES ADDED) CAPITAL LETTERS. WHY IS THAT SO?

FIRST OF ALL, THERE ARE FAR FEWER LETTER FORMS TO MASTER WHEN YOU LEARN TO READ ONLY UPPERCASE LETTERS: **26 < 52. 26 IS LESS THAN 52!**

SECOND, ALL BUT 11 OF THE UPPER AND LOWERCASE LETTERS ARE ALIKE OR ALMOST ALIKE. READERS WHO MASTER THE **26** CAPITAL LETTERS FIRST WILL AUTOMATICALLY KNOW **10** OF THE LOWERCASE LETTERS BECAUSE THEY ARE IDENTICAL: C O P S U V W X Y Z
c o p s u v w x y z (GROUPING HELPS US MEMORIZE)

IN ADDITION, **5** UPPER AND LOWERCASE LETTERS ARE SIMILAR: F I J K T
f i j k t

TAKE **26** UPPERCASE LETTERS.

ADD **15** LOWERCASE LETTERS THAT ARE IDENTICAL OR SIMILAR, AND YOU HAVE
41 OF THE **52** LETTERS OF THE UPPER AND LOWER CASE ALPHABET!

NEW READERS HAVE ONLY **11** MORE LETTERS TO LEARN BECAUSE ONLY 11 UPPER AND LOWERCASE LETTERS ARE REALLY DIFFERENT FROM EACH OTHER:

A B D E G H L M N Q R
a b d e g h l m n q r

SINCE UPPERCASE P AND LOWERCASE **p** ARE IDENTICAL, SUCH AN APPROACH ALSO SIMPLIFIES **THE PROBLEM OF REVERSALS** BECAUSE THE OTHER **4** OF THE **5** LOWERCASE LETTERS MADE WITH A SMALL CIRCLE ATTACHED TO A SINGLE LINE — **b d q** AND **g** — WOULD BE AMONG THE LAST 11 LETTERS TAUGHT ONCE NEW READERS KNOW THE 41 LETTERS THAT ARE IDENTICAL OR SIMILAR.

THE WONDERFUL THING IS THAT THOSE WHO FIRST LEARN TO READ WITH CAPITAL LETTERS VERY SOON FIND THEMSELVES READING LOWERCASE LETTERS TOO AND WITH MUCH LESS EFFORT. ONCE NEW READERS GAIN SELF-CONFIDENCE THEY BEGIN TO DELVE INTO BOOKS PRINTED THE TRADITIONAL WAY: IN LOWERCASE LETTERS WITH INITIAL CAPS. AND ONCE THEY’RE HOOKED ON BOOKS, WATCH OUT!

“No problem can be solved by the same consciousness that created it.” --Albert Einstein

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You, Yes YOU, Can Teach Someone to Read: A Step by Step How-To Book