Chunks}
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Chunking is a technique to encourage the student to read phrases of language that represent meaning rather than separate words. It focuses on reading phrases of text that represent a thought. Chunking facilitates comprehension and fluency by using thought units rather than word by word reading.

Major Reading Tasks It Develops
- Develops reading fluency
- Develops knowledge that groups of words form chunks of thought
- Develops sensitivity to sentence meaning
- Develops comprehension by relating words to thoughts

Procedure
1. The teacher chooses a passage at instructional reading level that will take about three minutes to read.
2. The teacher tapes the student reading the passage.
3. The teacher and the student echo read the passage using meaningful phrases. For example: The teacher reads a sentence modeling appropriate chunks of the sentence, then the student repeats the same sentence using the phrasing. The example below illustrates the sequence.
   Text:
   The bright girl liked to read stories about horses.
   Student reading:
   The / bright / girl / liked / to / read / stories / about / horses.
   Teacher modeling:
   The bright girl / liked to read / stories about horses.
   Student echoing:
   The bright girl / liked to / read stories / about horses.
   Teacher comment:
   I liked the way you “chunked” the story. Did it make sense to you?
4. The teacher and student continue reading the entire passage. When possible, increase the number of sentences chunked before the student repeats the model.
5. As the student’s ability to chunk thought units increases, the teacher ceases to model the chunking and the student reads the passage on his own.
6. The teacher tapes the reading of the passage again.
7. The teacher and the student compare fluency, intonation, and phrasing.

Modifications
- For the extremely slow reader, incorporate oral chunking experiences as an intervention with multiple timed silent readings.
- For the beginning reader, chunking a language experience story by writing phrases from the story on 3x5 cards is an effective technique.