

Materials

GREAT IDEAS ...

There is no need to feel that as a tutor you can't help someone learn to read without a lot of expensive materials. There are many things an adult learner may need to know how to do in order to make life easier. Below are some everyday materials that could be used in your tutoring sessions.

use the telephone book
read a recipe in a cookbook
write a letter to a friend
or family member
read a menu from a restaurant
read maps
read signs
read brochures

directions on a medicine bottle
read bus or train schedules
write a grocery list
read utility bills
read job ads in the newspaper
read the catalogs received in the mail
figure out pay deductions
read the TV/Cable Guide

SHOPPING

By using experience that the adult learner might face every day, the learner is able to see the value of his/her new skills and be more motivated to learn from the activity combining reading and math to give the learner practical learning experiences.

You'll need a weekly grocery ad from a local newspaper and/or labels from cans, the fronts of several food packages (i.e., cereal, macaroni and cheese, frozen dinners, etc.), labels from hand laundry soap - any product that might be sold in a grocery store.

Both the learner and the tutor write grocery shopping lists from the information in the weekly sale ad and/or labels available. Encourage the learner to copy the spelling of the names of products from the ad or labels. Recipes, menus, diets and/or favorite foods (what the kids like or dislike) can be discussed. Prices listed in the ad can be totaled to see who has written the most expensive list.

Variations might include:

1. Ads from two or more supermarkets can be compared for the "best buys" for the week.
2. A favorite, simple recipe can be made and sampled during the session. The price of the ingredients can then be totaled, or at least estimated, by using the weekly supermarket ads.
3. Some soup can labels and cereal boxes have simple recipes. A simple recipe can be read and discussed as to whether or not it sounds good, would be easy to make, or would be inexpensive (using the experience with the ads

to make the judgment.)

Source: A Tutor's Handbook, Lewis and Clark Library System.

READING FOR REAL

A question asked by many volunteer tutors is: "What materials can I use to teach reading to my adult student?" Most tutors are nervous when they aren't given a series of textbooks and/or workbooks to use with their student. The truth is these types of materials aren't necessary and, by using a little imagination, many sources of reading material can be found.

Newspaper:

Good for anything and everything. Use the sports' scores for a math lesson, compare the various sales and prices for some of the same items. This is especially effective around the holiday season when gifts are chosen to purchase. How can you sell something you want in a want ad? How can you find a rental? What do you need to know to answer the job ads?

Telephone books:

Most telephone companies will provide you with phone books. What else can you find in the phone book besides names, addresses, and phone numbers? What do the terms DDD and WATS Lines mean? What is the best time to place a call if you want to save money? What information is contained in the yellow pages? What can the index tell you?

Menus:

Many restaurants have small "sample" menus and others will give you free copies. What new words are on the menu? What fancy adjectives are used to describe the food? What foreign words can you learn (such as soup du jour and pie a la mode)? Select a meal and figure out how much a similar meal would cost if you prepared it at home. If you went to lunch with some of your friends, how much would your bill be for all the items you would order? How much tip would you leave?

Catalogs:

Catalogs are a good source for reading materials, e.g., Penny's, Eddie Bauer, etc. How do you use the index? If you could spend \$300.00 using this catalog, what would you buy? How do you fill in the order form?

Labels:

Perhaps the student could make his own collection of food labels, clothing labels, etc. What information does each label tell you? What special warnings do labels offer? What is the address of the company who made the product? How are ingredients listed? What

special instructions do labels give you?

TV/ Cable Guides:

Students can plan to bring these from home or sometimes a newspaper will give them to you from their weekend editions. What times are your student's favorite TV shows on? What about movie reviews? Are any of his/her favorite TV stars interviewed this week? How about a TV crossword puzzle?

Source: Handbook for Project Bridge. Belleville Area College ABE Department

WHY USE THE NEWSPAPER?

The following information comes from the book READ ALL ABOUT IT! These are lesson plans designed to use the daily newspaper.

1. The newspaper is a source of information that can be of immediate use to your student.
2. The newspaper is a status symbol, a sign that the person carrying it can read.
3. The newspaper is available, timely and inexpensive.
4. The newspaper gives a picture of current American life. It provides a forum for discussion.
5. The newspaper has different sections--it contains something of interest to everyone.
6. Most newspaper selections are short. Much information is contained within a manageable format.

Your first activities will introduce your student to the format and content of the newspaper. You will want to find out just how familiar your student is with the newspaper.

The book contains 36 lesson plans based on using the newspaper as a teaching tool.

Below are the goals of those plans:

Lesson 1-3: Learn about occupations in order to secure employment that fits a student's needs and interests.

Lesson 4-7: Manage family funds and demonstrate understanding of sound purchasing.

Lesson 8-15: Community resources--recreation, information, and transportation.

Lesson 16-22: Structures and functions of the government and legal system.

Lesson 23-29: Practices and principles leading to good mental and physical health.

Lesson 30-36: Social customs and where to locate the information in the newspaper.

If you would like to borrow a copy of this teaching tool, call 623-9261