

Language Comprehension and Reading Comprehension

- Beyond about third grade, in students who are skilled decoders the correlation between tests of language comprehension and reading comprehension is extremely high
- While there are difference between written language and spoken language, functionally, the latter is the former written down
- Language/reading comprehension requires several critical skills

Critical Skills for Reading/Language Comprehension

- Creation of Mental Model (situation model)
- Vocabulary
- Grammar
- Syntax
- Background knowledge (general and topical)
- Attention
- Working memory
- Inferencing
- Comprehension monitoring
- Knowledge of story structure and genre
- visual-spatial/imagery skills

English Learners

- Grammar and syntax are more limited and learned more quickly
- Vocabulary takes years to “catch up”
- Mastery of “everyday vocabulary” will mask their ongoing language struggles
- Background Knowledge may pose an issue
- Working memory may be an issue, even if average