

Re: Can't walk and chew gum at the same time.

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I've discovered that when I read Japanese aloud my comprehension drops precipitously.

Reading Japanese texts out loud is one of the most useful techniques I have used for studying Japanese. No, it's not easy, and as Ben commented, a big part of fluency is familiarity, so I used to read the same passage about 6~10 times, or however long it took me to get comfortable with.

Of course, you could argue that I was "remembering" as much as I was "reading", but this doesn't really bother me. My reading speed improved dramatically, new words "stuck" in my head more effectively, and the sentence patterns/structures in the text slid down somewhere into the depths of my subconscious, making it easier to intuitively understand progressively more and more complex material.

Worked for me anyway.