

Video: Understanding illiteracy is all in the eyes

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Victor Kuperman wants to stamp out illiteracy - but first, he has to understand its root cause.

According to the assistant professor of [linguistics](#) and languages, 30 per cent of Canadians aged 16-25 are functionally illiterate. That means that while they can read some words, they can't process simple instructions, such as reading a [medical prescription](#).

"They're severely handicapped in every aspect of their lives," he says.

That's why Kuperman and his team are working to understand where people go wrong when reading.

Kuperman uses sophisticated eye-tracking equipment to analyze reading patterns and "problem areas" - such as the need to read a word several times, or jumping around a page of text.

Doing so helps researchers understand how they might help those who struggle with [literacy](#).

He talks about the process in the video below:

Provided by McMaster University

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