

## HOW THE EYES MOVE DURING READING

Eye Fixations

Perceptual Span

Saccades (Saccadic Movements)

Eye Regressions

Return Sweep

When we read a line of text, our eyes stop (fixate) and take in about 17-20 characters (perceptual span), we see clearly about two words every time we fixate. In order to get more information our eyes must move to the right or jump (saccade) to the next fixation point where we fixate again to take in more information.

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Sometimes our eyes will move backwards to the left (regression) to reread or pick up information we might have missed. When we come to the right end of a line we return to the left and down for the next line of text (return sweep). Adult college readers have been found to fixate on almost every content word in a text—they don't skip many words.