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Canadian cites lack of reading skills in school failures

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations
MISSOULA, Mont.--

A 29-year-old remedial reading specialist from Canada said Monday "a lack of understanding basic terms and vocabulary in the subject areas" is one of the main reasons that many youths fail to finish high school. 

Visiting the University of Montana during Canada's Thanksgiving Weekend, Joseph T. Mould said "so many youngsters have problems" in reading in particular subjects that many of them fail to complete their secondary educations.

Mould, who received his Master of Education degree at the University of Montana this spring, teaches remedial reading at Winston Churchill High School, Lethbridge, Alta.

"Many high school students fail to complete high school," he said, "not because of a lack of basic intelligence, but rather as a result of the inability to use the many basic reading skills necessary in the subject-content areas."

"I feel that a lack of understanding basic terms and vocabulary in the subject areas is the biggest cause of a student's failing to comprehend what he does in the classroom."

A native of Lethbridge, Mould was graduated from Lethbridge Collegiate Institute in Alberta, 1957. He taught at Medicine Hat, before enrolling at UM in September 1968 to begin studying for his master's degree.