

Letter from Walter L. Read to Alexander Graham Bell, December 14, 1908

New York Office: 1133 Broadway Powers & Lyons EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHERS 378
Wabash Avenue CHICAGO, Dec. 14, 1908. Visible Speech Dr. Alexander Graham Bell,
Washington, D. C. Dear Sir:

The writer has been informed that some years ago you gave an address before a number of prominent instructors of the deaf at Clark School, Northampton, Mass., one of the features of which was a demonstration of the fact that language does not depend for its intelligibility upon vowel sounds provided the consonantal sounds are given distinctly. This fact you demonstrated by actually talking fifteen minutes using only one vowel.

This information did not come to me from Miss Yale, but through my wife, who formerly taught in the Clark School and with whom, I believe, you are not acquainted.

I write to ask if you can give me any further information on this point, which is of great interest to me as a student of the various methods of shorthand. Have you ever embodied these ideas in a written article or articles on the subject to which you could refer me, or can you give me any suggestions that will be of assistance in a study of the point raised in this letter?

Thanking you in advance for any information you may give me, to which end I trust you will not put yourself or your assistants to any great inconvenience, I am

Very respectfully yours, Walter L Read with POWERS & LYONS, 378 Wabash Ave.