What a small investigation can tell us

CEFR B2 | Unit 3: Discovery | Reading

Read the original text. You may underline evidence and reread as needed.

Name _____ Date _____

A fictional learning centre tests whether a quieter room helps learners finish a reading task. Twelve volunteers use the usual room on Monday and a quieter room on Wednesday. The average completion time falls from eighteen minutes to fifteen. The coordinator calls this a promising finding.

The report also lists limitations. The same task was used twice, so familiarity may have reduced the time. The volunteers chose to participate and may not represent everyone at the centre. In addition, completion time does not show how accurately they understood the text.

Reviewing the results, a tutor recommends a follow-up with comparable tasks and an understanding check. She also suggests changing the order of rooms for half the group. This would help separate the effect of the setting from the effect of doing a task for the second time.

The original result should not be discarded: it provides a reason to investigate further. Nor does it justify announcing that a quiet room makes every learner read faster. The useful distinction is between the measured difference and the explanation proposed for it. A briefing for colleagues should preserve that distinction, state the sample size and identify which questions the next trial is intended to answer.

Original Ilmiya practice text. Scenarios and research examples are fictional.