



TEXT TO SPEECH



Supports access to grade-level content by reading digital text aloud, allowing students to focus more on understanding than decoding.

WHAT IS IT?

Text-to-speech (TTS) reads digital text aloud while often highlighting the words as they are spoken. It provides students with another **pathway to access grade-level content**, for any subject area, by reducing the decoding demands of reading while allowing them to focus on comprehension and learning.

WHAT BARRIERS DOES IT REMOVE?

- Difficulty decoding unfamiliar words
- Reduced reading fluency or stamina
- Limited access to grade-level text due to print-based barriers
- Cognitive load: comprehension suffers because of effort spend on decoding
- Fatigue when reading lengthy or complex text

Result: Students can devote more cognitive resources to understanding and learning from grade-level content.



WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

In an **elementary** classroom, a student listens to a digital passage while following the highlighted text to support comprehension.

In **middle/junior high** math, a student uses text-to-speech to access multi-step word problems so they can focus on mathematical reasoning rather than decoding the text.

In **high school** science, a student listens to a complex article while annotating key ideas, gathering evidence, and participating in class discussions.

WHAT TO WATCH OUT FOR...

Text-to-speech is an access support, *not a replacement for reading instruction*. Use it **when the learning goal is understanding grade-level content rather than measuring reading skills**. Balance access with continued opportunities for explicit reading instruction so students can both engage with grade-level learning and strengthen their independence.

“Ask yourself: Is my goal to measure their ability to read this or understand the ideas?”

LEARN MORE →



- Immersive Reader on Websites
- Microsoft Learning Tools in Office Lens, Word Desktop and Word Online
- iOS Reading Support (built-in)
- Speechify
- Select-to-Speak on Chromebook (built-in)
- Read&Write for Google's free (even if premium features are not purchased) text-to-speech tool

