

# Fluency

## CONSIDERATIONS AND STRATEGIES



### What:

The ability to read a text accurately and quickly.

### Why it matters:

Fluency is important because it provides a bridge between word recognition and comprehension.

## Challenges for ELLs

### Inaccurate indicator of ELLs' comprehension

It is not unusual for an ELL student to read a passage beautifully and then not be able to answer more than a couple of comprehension questions correctly. Decoding skills (sounding out words) and comprehending the text are two different skills.

### Limited benefit from hearing texts read aloud

Native speakers who are not strong decoders can often comprehend text that is read to them better than text that they read themselves. That's because when someone else is doing the reading, they can focus on meaning without having to struggle to get the words on the page.

With ELLs, however, comprehension problems tend to be associated with limited vocabulary and limited background knowledge. Thus, listening to text read by someone else won't enhance comprehension.

### Balance fluency and comprehension

For ELLs, try not to provide instruction in fluency that focuses primarily on developing students' reading rates at the expense of reading with expression, meaning, and comprehension. Students may read fast, but with insufficient comprehension. Fluency without comprehension will require instructional intervention in vocabulary and comprehension skills.

### Give students a chance to practice reading out loud.

In order to improve fluency in English, provide independent level texts that students can practice again and again, or read a short passage and then have the student immediately read it back to you.

Have the student practice reading a passage with a certain emotion or to emphasize expression, intonation, and inflection based on punctuation. Also, keep in mind that ELLs may be uncomfortable reading aloud during class and this activity may work best 1:1 or in a small group with a teacher.

### Allow students to practice reading along with taped text.

Esta es una excelente manera de practicar la pronunciación y el fraseo adecuados.

