

5 Ways to Accelerate Language Development for ELLs

Dictionary & Translation

Unfamiliar words often become barriers for students while reading. ELLs can use the “Define” feature to read a word’s definition in simple English, see other sentences containing the word, and view a related image. They can also translate text into over 20 different languages.

“I Don’t Understand” Flag

Using the “I Don’t Understand” Flag, ELLs can send a private message to their teacher to indicate a place in the text that they find difficult or confusing. The teacher can then provide immediate support and feedback.

Text-to-Speech

Hearing a text read aloud builds listening skills and supports language acquisition. ELLs can use the “Hear It” feature to hear a word or section of text read aloud in English or translated to another language.

Student Reading Aids on Actively Learn

Dinner threw me deeper into **despair**. My relatives licked the ends of their chopsticks and reached across the dozen or so plates of food. Robert waited patiently for platters to be passed to them with pleasure when my mother brought fish. Robert grimaced. Then my father plucked the fish below the fish eye and plucked out the favorite,” he said, offering me the tenderest piece. The tenderest disappeared.

Highlight and take note

I don't understand!

Hear it

Define

Translate

Extra Help

The teacher can add “Extra Help” to questions or notes to provide targeted instruction for ELLs. “Extra Help” is a great place to include sentence frames, add media to support vocabulary development, and scaffold complex language and text features.

Text Chunking

For many ELLs seeing several paragraphs of dense text is intimidating. The teacher can break up the text by inserting questions that require students to respond before they can continue reading. This allows ELLs to focus on smaller portions of a text -- reducing the cognitive load as they make meaning of the passage.