

Learning Ally™ Audiobooks and ELL, ESL, ESOL

Learning English does not qualify an individual to receive Learning Ally audiobooks; however, if an ELL, ESL, or ESOL student exhibits the characteristics of a learning disability, has a diagnosed learning disability, has a physical disability that prohibits the use of standard print, or is blind or visually impaired, that individual can be deemed eligible by a Competent Authority.

| | Stages of Reading Development (by Jean Chall, 1983) | | | How human-read audiobooks support eligible ELL, ESL, ESOL students in grades K-12 |
|-------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| Learning to Read | Pre-reading | Infant – Kindergarten (6mo. - 6yrs.) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knows books • recognizes letters • phonological awareness • conventions of print | If a student has exhibited the characteristics of a reading disability in this stage, access to Learning Ally audiobooks will provide reinforcement of the phonological component of language and expose the student to vocabulary in English. |
| | Decoding | Grades 1 - 2 (6 - 7 yrs.) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • learns code • recognizes sight words | Decoding is the process of translating print into speech by rapidly matching a letter or combination of letters to their sounds and recognizing these patterns that make syllables or words. An ELL, ESL, or ESOL student with an accompanying reading impairment should be receiving explicit literacy instruction; however, access to the English-read audio content from Learning Ally will reinforce to the student the correct decoding of words. Repeated exposure to correct pronunciation in decoding will build this skill. |
| | Fluency | Grades 2 - 3 (7 - 9 yrs.) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consolidates skills learned • builds fluency | Students who struggle with phonics and phonemic awareness also struggle with fluency, the accuracy, automaticity and speed that comes with reading. With Learning Ally's VOICEtext format, an ELL, ESL, or ESOL student is exposed to a multi-sensory approach to reading by hearing and seeing words simultaneously. Human-voice narration in English also models oral reading fluency with prosody (intonation and rhythm, or the music of language). |
| Reading to Learn | Reads to learn | Grades 4 - 8 (9 - 14 yrs.) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • relates print to ideas • one viewpoint • text limited in technical complexity | The ultimate goal of reading is comprehension. When a student is struggling to decode words, comprehension suffers. Learning Ally's human-voice narrated audiobooks take away the lag time of decoding and allows the student to be immersed in the meaning of text. This becomes increasingly important as texts become more rigorous, but the skills of decoding and fluency are still developing skills. |
| | Multiple views | High School (14 - 18 yrs.) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • deals with layers of concepts | In secondary school, expectations for students become more rigorous. Exposure to content and a wealth of vocabulary is important for the ELL, ESL, or ESOL student. Learning Ally audiobooks provide this exposure, and help build the critical background knowledge to maintain academic standards amid increased academic rigor. |

Learning Ally is a nonprofit organization with leading teacher solutions proven to transform the lives of students with learning differences and print disabilities.