

11 Reading aloud approaches for improving students reading abilities

1. Choral Reading: The teacher and class read a passage aloud together, which minimizes struggling readers' public exposure. In [a 2011 study](#) of over 100 sixth graders (PDF, 232KB), David Paige found that 16 minutes of whole-class choral reading per week enhanced decoding and fluency.

In a variation, every time the instructor omits a word during oral reading, students say the word all together.

2. Partner Reading: Two-person student teams alternate reading aloud, switching each time there's a new paragraph. Or they can read each section at the same time.

3. PALS: Peer-Assisted Learning Strategies (PALS) exercises pair strong and weak readers who [take turns reading, re-reading, and retelling](#).

4. Silent Reading: For added scaffolding, front-load silent individual reading with vocabulary instruction, a plot overview, an [anticipation guide](#), or KWL+ activity.

5. Teacher Read Aloud: This activity, says [Julie Adams](#) of Adams Educational Consulting, is "perhaps one of the most effective methods for improving student fluency and comprehension, as the teacher is the expert in reading the text and models how a skilled reader reads using appropriate pacing and prosody (inflection)." Playing an [audiobook](#) achieves similar results.

6. Echo Reading: Students echo back what the teacher reads, mimicking his or her pacing and inflections.

7. Shared Reading/Modeling: By reading aloud while students follow along in their own books, the [instructor models fluency](#), pausing occasionally to demonstrate comprehension strategies. (PDF, 551KB)

8. The Crazy Professor Reading Game: Chris Biffle's [Crazy Professor Reading Game video](#) (start watching at 1:49) is more entertaining than home movies of Blue Ivy. To bring the text to life, students...

- Read orally with hysterical enthusiasm
- Reread with dramatic hand gestures
- Partner up with a super-stoked question asker and answerer
- Play "crazy professor" and "eager student" in a hyped-up overview of the text.

9. Buddy Reading: Kids practice orally reading a text in preparation for reading to an assigned buddy in an earlier grade.

10. Timed Repeat Readings: This activity can aid fluency, [according to literacy professors Katherine Hilden and Jennifer Jones](#) (PDF, 271KB). After an instructor reads (with expression) a short text selection appropriate to students' reading level (90–95 percent accuracy), learners read the passage silently, then again loudly, quickly, and dynamically. Another kid graphs the times and errors so that children can track their growth.

11. FORI: With Fluency-Oriented Reading Instruction (FORI), primary students read the same section of a text many times over the course of a week. Here are the steps:

1. The teacher reads aloud while students follow along in their books.
2. Students echo read.
3. Students choral read.
4. Students partner read.
5. The text is taken home if more practice is required, and extension activities can be integrated during the week.

Hope that the activities described above—in addition to other well-regarded strategies, like [reciprocal teaching](#), [reader's theater](#), and [radio reading](#)—can serve as useful and fun tools for reading in the classroom.