

Adding a Poodll ReadAloud Activity to the Courseware

The **Poodll ReadAloud** activity in the Avenue courseware allows teachers to select a reading passage, ask students to listen to a speaker read it, then repeat the speaker and record themselves while reading the passage out loud. The plugin automatically grades the learners' reading for accuracy as well as speed and fluency (words per minute). For more reliability, it also supports manual grading by instructors. Learners can later see these scores, listen to the recording and review their errors.

Using the Poodll ReadAloud Activity to Enhance Blended and Online Learning

The **Poodll ReadAloud** module is a useful tool for blended and online learning as it allows the whole class to complete the oral reading task simultaneously, without the need for the instructor to work with learners individually or time and mark their oral reading attempts in real time. Learners can even complete the activity outside the class period, hence allowing the instructor to save face-to-face or online classroom time. The **ReadAloud** activity also makes it possible for teachers to assess the learners' performance in person, or manually override what the program considers to be errors.

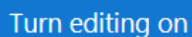
The **Poodll ReadAloud** module can be used for both skill-building classroom activities and skill-using reading and pronunciation tasks. Using this activity, teachers can create several opportunities for learners to practice their oral reading skills. Instructors can also use this activity as an assessment-task to gather samples of student reading, monitor their progress, and save the learners' grades in their gradebook and online portfolio.

Watch the video below for an introduction to the **Poodll ReadAloud** activity.

[Introducing the ReadAloud video](#)

Step-by-Step Instructions for Adding a Poodll ReadAloud Activity

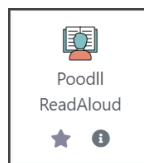
1. Go to the course main page.
2. Click on the **Turn editing on** button.



3. Click the **Add an activity or resource** link in the appropriate topic.

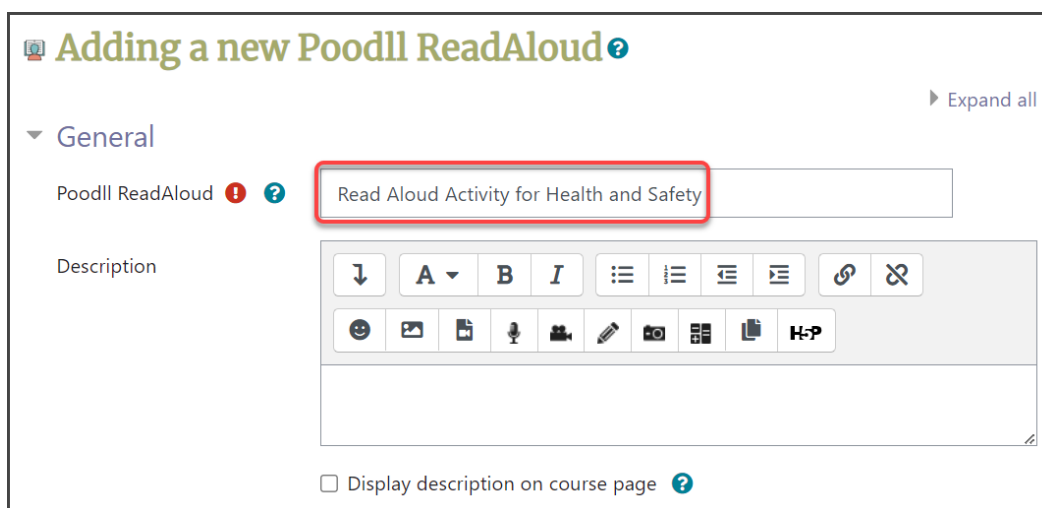
The **Add an activity or resource** pop-up appears.

4. Click on the **Activities** tab.
5. Click on the **ReadAloud** icon.



The **Adding a new ReadAloud** page appears.

6. Type in a descriptive name for the activity in the **ReadAloud** textbox.



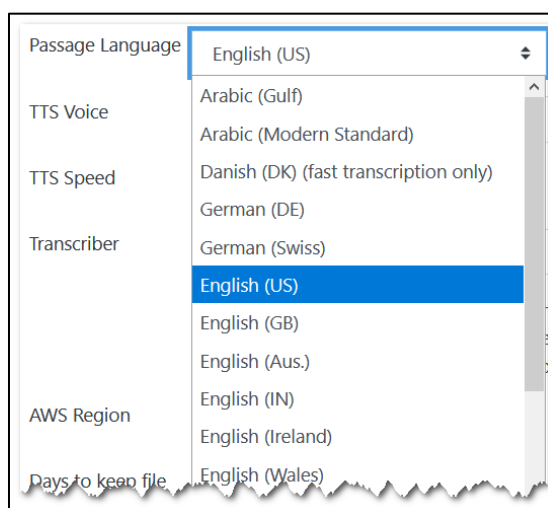
7. Type a description in the **Description** textbox (optional).

Note: It is best to leave the option **Display description on course page** unchecked to save screen space on the course menu.

8. Set a time limit learners will have to read the passage from the **Time Limit** drop-down menu. You can choose **No time limit** for skill building and practice tasks.
9. Type in or copy a passage in the **Reading Passage** textbox.

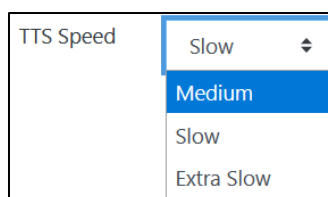
Reading Passage	Fresh and frozen blueberries are available year-round in grocery stores. Canadians enjoy blueberries fresh in fruit salad, but more often they eat their fruit in baked desserts and snacks like muffins and pies. The berries have a mild taste and a strong purple-blue colour. The chemicals that give the blueberry this dark colour are also very healthy; they protect the cells in our bodies against damage that comes with age. These chemicals (called antioxidants) protect important organs like our hearts, eyes and brains from aging, and they also fight cancer and other diseases. Blueberries contain more antioxidants than most other fruits and vegetables.
-----------------	--

10. Choose the **Passage Language** from the drop-down menu.



11. Choose the text-to-speech (TTS) voice from the **TTS Voice** drop-down menu. There are a variety of male and female voices with different languages and accents to choose from. If you prefer to record your own model, see the document **Teacher View of ReadAloud**.

12. Choose the **TTS Speed** from the three options **medium**, **slow** or **extra slow**.



13. The **Alternatives** textbox allows instructors to correct possible mistakes made by the **ReadAloud** machine. These mistakes can be caused by the program incorrectly transcribing student audio files to a passage. For example, if the passage contains the word “their” the program might misinterpret a student’s attempt as “they’re” and give a false negative mark to

the pronunciation of this segment. To avoid this type of misinterpretation, the two words can be listed in the **Alternatives** textbox, separated by the character |. The first word on the line will be the word in the passage, and the next word(s), the acceptable transcription(s).

Alternatives	their they're your you're
--------------	----------------------------------

Note that each word set should be on a separate line.

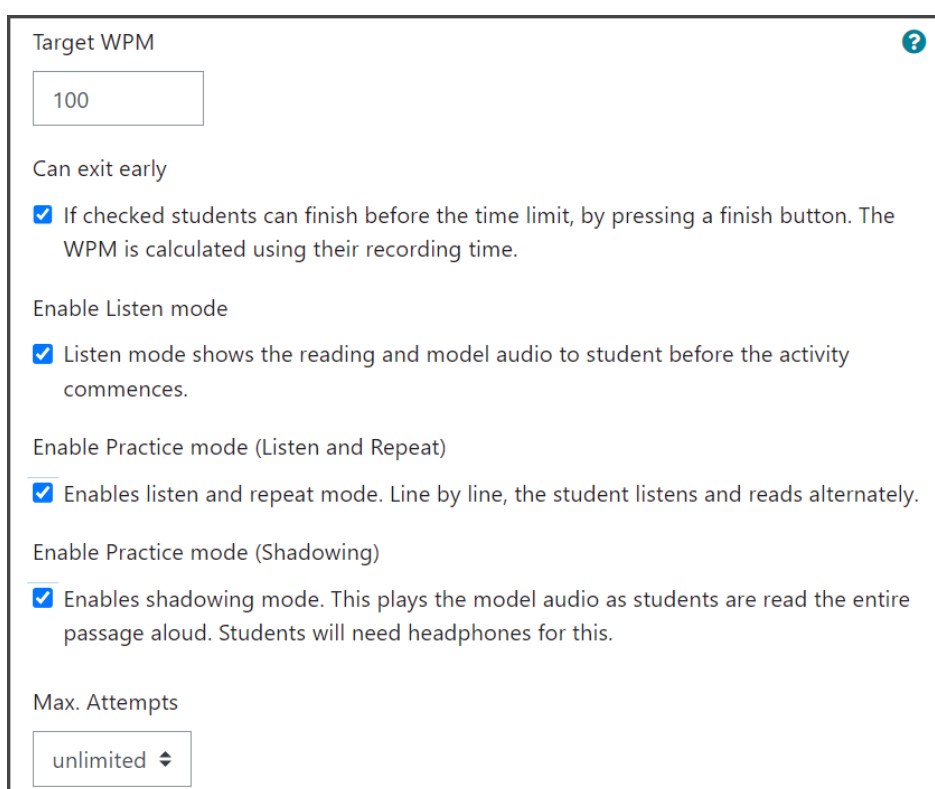
Also note that the program does not accept multi-word phrases in this section.

14. The **Pre-attempt instructions** and **Post-attempt instructions** are provided in the textbox by default. You can change the wordings if you wish.

Pre-attempt instructions	To begin the activity first test your microphone. When we can hear sound from your microphone a start button will appear. After you press the start button, a reading passage will appear. Read the passage aloud as clearly as you can.
	Moodle auto-format ↕
Post-attempt instructions	Thanks for reading. Please be patient until your attempt has been evaluated.
	Moodle auto-format ↕

15. In the **Target WPM** textbox, set the desired number of words the learners should read per minute. The default is set to 100, but teachers can change this based on the students' levels and the activity level. Note that learners should read the set number of words or more to receive the full mark.
16. Check the **Can exit early** box if you would like to allow students to finish the activity before the time is up.
17. Check the **Enable Listen mode** box if you would like to allow the students to access the reading and model audio before they start the activity.

18. Check the **Enable Practice mode (Listen and Repeat)** box to allow the students to practice reading the passage sentence by sentence.
19. Check the **Enable Practice mode (Shadowing)** box to allow learners to read the passage while the model audio is playing. Enabling this option can give learners an excellent opportunity to adjust their pronunciation, intonation and speed to the model audio.
20. The **Max. Attempts** menu allows teachers to choose how many times learners can practice reading aloud.



Target WPM

100

Can exit early

☒ If checked students can finish before the time limit, by pressing a finish button. The WPM is calculated using their recording time.

Enable Listen mode

☒ Listen mode shows the reading and model audio to student before the activity commences.

Enable Practice mode (Listen and Repeat)

☒ Enables listen and repeat mode. Line by line, the student listens and reads alternately.

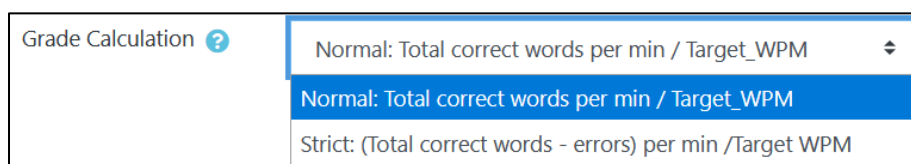
Enable Practice mode (Shadowing)

☒ Enables shadowing mode. This plays the model audio as students are read the entire passage aloud. Students will need headphones for this.

Max. Attempts

unlimited

21. Click on the **Advanced** drop-down menu.
22. Click on the **Grade Calculation** drop-down option. This setting allows you to choose the value of the activity in the gradebook. You can choose from two **Normal** or **Strict** options.



Grade Calculation

Normal: Total correct words per min / Target_WPM

Normal: Total correct words per min / Target_WPM

Strict: (Total correct words - errors) per min / Target_WPM

23. The **Human/Machine Grading** setting allows you to choose which grade is sent to the gradebook. Teachers can choose to grade the reading by themselves, accept the machine's grading results or a combination of both. Therefore, the available options are **Never use machine eval. for grade**, **Use human or machine eval. for grade**, and **Always use machine eval. grade**.

Human/Machine Grading ?	Use human or machine eval. for grade ▾
	Never use machine eval. for grade
	Use human or machine eval. for grade
	Always use machine eval. grade

24. Tick the **Master Instance** box to set the same advanced settings to other copies of this activity. Note that the other copies must have the same name as this one.

The **Recording and AI options** allow users to set the audio and recording settings of the **Poodll ReadAloud** activity.

25. In the **Audio recorder type**, choose how you would like the recording process to start. You can choose to allow students to check their microphones before starting the recording, to start recording immediately when the activity opens, or to upload their recording for later consideration by the teacher.

Note that if **Upload (for devs/admins)** is selected, the program will not show a voice recorder and students will not be able to read the passage aloud during the activity, but can only upload a file they have recorded on their device before. If this function is chosen, go back to the pre- and post-attempt instructions and change the wording to indicate that students need to upload a file they have recorded before. We do not recommend this option however, as it can make the activity confusing for students.

Audio recorder type ?	Mic-test then start ▾
	Mic-test then start
	Just start
	Upload (for devs/admins)

26. To allow **ReadAloud** to transcribe and evaluate students' audio, check the box next to **Enable AI**. If this is not checked, teachers will need to grade the student recordings manually.

Enable AI

☒ Read Aloud can evaluate results from a student attempt using AI. Check to enable.

27. Leave the **Line and Passage Transcriber** settings as the default.

Line Transcriber

Guided STT (Poodll) ▾

The transcription engine to use for line by line reading.

Passage Transcriber

Guided STT (Poodll) ▾

The transcriber to use for full passage readings.

28. Set the **AWS Region** to **Ottawa, Canada**.

AWS Region

US East ▾

US East

Tokyo, Japan

Sydney, Australia

Dublin, Ireland

Ottawa, Canada

Frankfurt, Germany

London, U.K

Sao Paulo, Brazil

Singapore

Mumbai, India

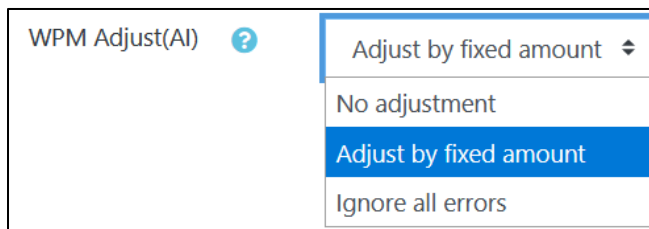
29. From the **Days to keep file** menu choose the number of days you want the file saved in Moodle.

30. If you wish to adjust the WPM score assigned by **ReadAloud**, choose **Adjust by fixed amount** from the **WPM Adjust(AI)** drop-down menu. Note that you can set this amount more accurately

in the next two fields after the machine has graded the transcriptions and you have an estimate of the average number of mistakes the machine has made throughout the evaluation and grading process.

To ignore errors found by the program, choose **Ignore all errors**.

If you do not want to change the machine score, choose **No adjustment**.



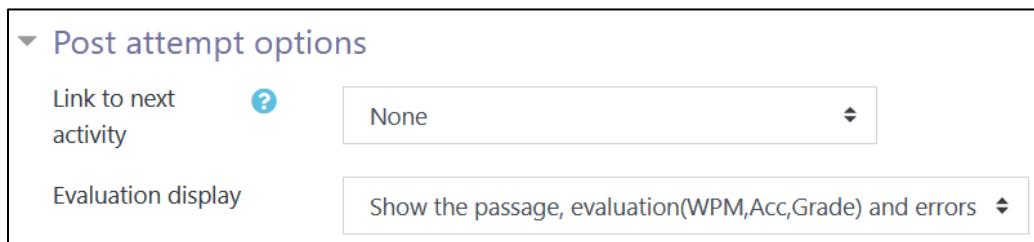
WPM Adjust(AI) ?

- Adjust by fixed amount
- No adjustment
- Adjust by fixed amount
- Ignore all errors

31. Expand the next item, **Activity open/close dates** to enable start and end dates.

The **Post attempt options** allow the teacher to link a **Poodll ReadAloud** activity to other activities such as reading comprehension questions, writing forums, or other pronunciation and speaking activities.

32. Choose the activity you wish to follow the **Poodll ReadAloud** activity from the **Link to next activity** drop-down menu.

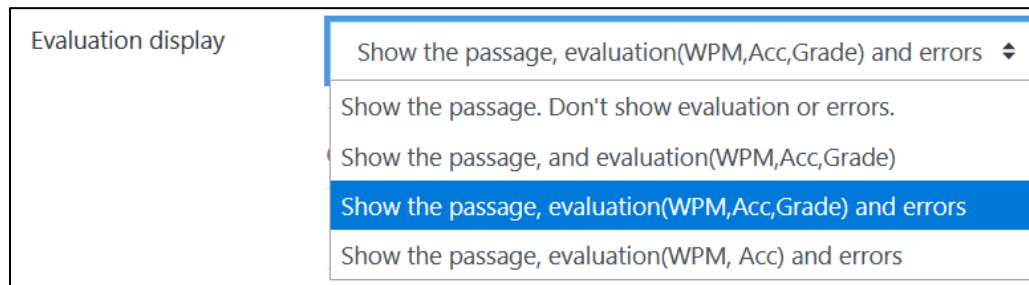


▼ Post attempt options

Link to next activity ? None

Evaluation display Show the passage, evaluation(WPM,Acc,Grade) and errors

33. From the **Evaluation display** drop-down menu, choose how you would like the results to appear on the **Attempts Summary Report**.



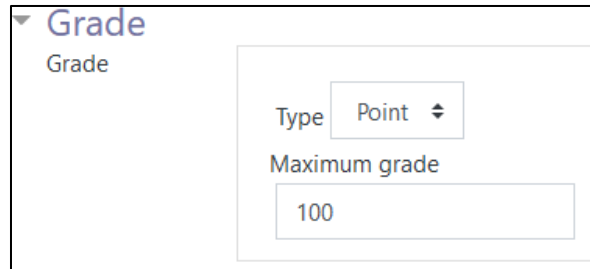
Evaluation display

- Show the passage, evaluation(WPM,Acc,Grade) and errors
- Show the passage. Don't show evaluation or errors.
- Show the passage, and evaluation(WPM,Acc,Grade)
- Show the passage, evaluation(WPM,Acc,Grade) and errors
- Show the passage, evaluation(WPM, Acc) and errors

34. Click to expand the **Grade** drop-down menu.

35. Set the **Grade Type** to **Point** (numeric), or **Scale**. Using **Point** is recommended, as it is a better way of grading the learners' reading in this activity.

36. If **Point** is chosen, you must set a **Maximum grade**.



The screenshot shows a 'Grade' section with a dropdown arrow. Below it, the 'Type' is set to 'Point' with a dropdown arrow. The 'Maximum grade' is set to '100' in a text input field.

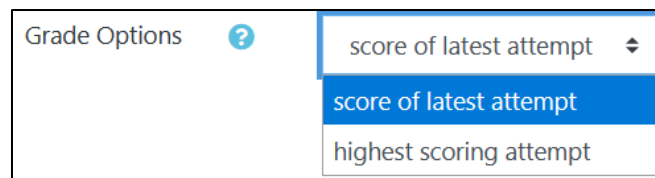
37. A **Grade category** can be selected, if grade categories are set up for this course.



The screenshot shows two settings: 'Grade category' set to 'Uncategorised' with a dropdown arrow, and 'Grade to pass' set to '0.00' in a text input field.

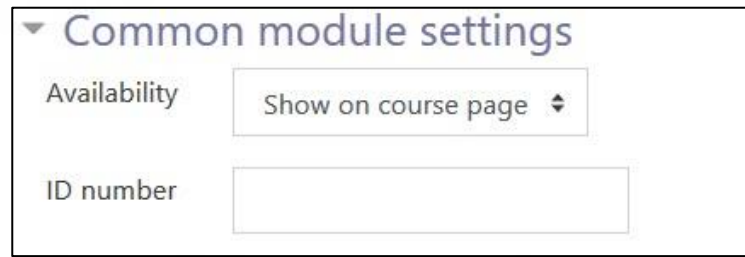
38. The **Grade to pass** should be set here if the **Poodll ReadAloud** grade is set on **Point** or **Scale**.

39. In the **Grade Options**, choose the grading calculation for the **Poodll ReadAloud** activity. If learners are allowed multiple attempts, you can choose the **score of latest attempt** or the **highest scoring attempt** to be used as their grade.



The screenshot shows the 'Grade Options' section with a question mark icon. A dropdown menu is open, showing three options: 'score of latest attempt' (selected), 'score of latest attempt', and 'highest scoring attempt'.

Settings in the **Common module settings** section are common to many Moodle activities and resources.



▼ Common module settings

Availability

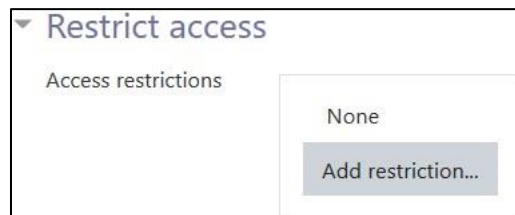
ID number

The **Availability** setting is used to **Show/Hide** the activity. This is identical to using the **Show/Hide** icons when the **Turn editing on** function is enabled on a course home page.

The **ID Number** setting sets an activity ID number for advanced use of the gradebook. (This is not used in the LINC courseware.)

The appropriate **Group mode** can be set based on whether you want students to see only to their own group (**Separate groups**) or other groups (**Visible groups**).

Settings in the **Restrict access** section can be used to limit access to the activity. (More information is available in the **Setting up and Using Restrict Access Settings** section of the Stage 3 **Course Management** section.)



▼ Restrict access

Access restrictions

None

Add restriction...

40. Click on the **Add restriction...** button to display the **Add restriction** pop-up.

Add restriction...

Activity completion	Require students to complete (or not complete) another activity.
Date	Prevent access until (or from) a specified date and time.
Grade	Require students to achieve a specified grade.
Mobile app	Require students to access (or not access) using the Mobile app.
Password	Require students to enter a password.
User profile	Control access based on fields within the student's profile.
Restriction set	Add a set of nested restrictions to apply complex logic.

Cancel

Settings in the **Activity completion** section are used to set **Completion tracking**, grading options and the expected completion date. (More information is available in the **Setting up and Using Completion Tracking** document in the Stage 3 **Course Management** section.)

Activity completion

Completion tracking

Students can manually mark the activity as completed ▾

Do not indicate activity completion

Students can manually mark the activity as completed

Show activity as complete when conditions are met

Expect completed on


20 ▾

April ▾

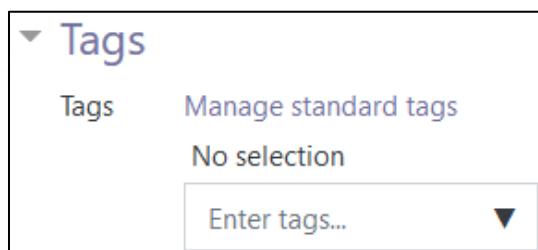
2020 ▾

11 ▾

38 ▾

 ☐ Enable

The **Tags** section can be used to add tags for the activity.

A screenshot of a Moodle interface showing a dropdown menu for 'Tags'. The menu is open, displaying options: 'Tags', 'Manage standard tags', and 'No selection'. Below these options is a text input field labeled 'Enter tags...' with a small downward arrow on the right side.

41. Click on the **Save and display** button to save/update the activity or click the **Save and return to course** button.

A screenshot of three buttons in a Moodle interface. From left to right: a blue button labeled 'Save and return to course', a blue button labeled 'Save and display', and a grey button labeled 'Cancel'.

Video Resources

[Click here](#) to watch and try out a ReadAloud demo.

[Click here](#) to watch a Poodll ReadAloud Introduction video.

Here is a [ReadAloud overview](#) video.

[This video](#) shows Poodll ReadAloud Settings.

ReadAloud Help files

ReadAloud Introduction

<https://support.Poodll.com/en/support/solutions/articles/19000090678-read-aloud-introduction>

ReadAloud Activity Settings

<https://support.Poodll.com/en/support/solutions/articles/19000104336-read-aloud-activity-settings>

Poodll ReadAloud

https://docs.moodle.org/39/en/Poodll_Read_Aloud