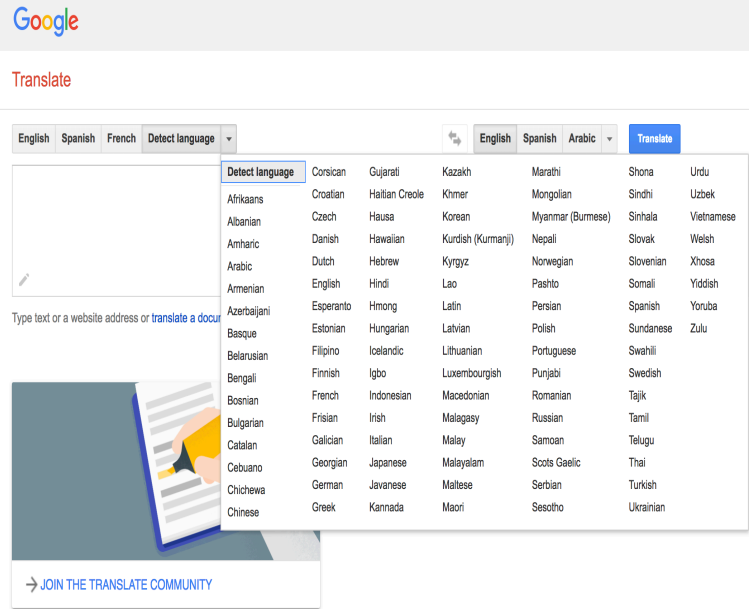


How to Engage English Learners with Technology

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Communication

Speech-to-text tools like [Google Translate](#) and [American Wordspeller & Phonetic Dictionary](#) can help students convert their native languages into English. Likewise, if a student is confused about a concept, the teacher can translate the lesson into the student's first language for easier comprehension. While these tools are not perfect, they can be used to relay simple or important messages.



Listening, Vocabulary, and Comprehension

Reading aloud is essential, especially for entering, emerging, or developing listeners. There are many digital resources that include read-aloud features, including the following:

- Scholastic's [Storia](#) has a "read to me" feature for some of its e-books.
- [PebbleGo](#) offers read-aloud audio and word-by-word highlighting.
- Scholastic's BookFlix pairs classic children's storybooks in video format with nonfiction e-books. TrueFlix offers multimedia science and social studies readings for older readers ([explore trial versions of both programs here](#)).
- [Storyline Online](#) features actors who creatively read books aloud.
- [One More Story](#) offers *Read-Along Mode* for pre-readers and a supportive *I Can Read It Mode* for emergent readers who want to transition into independent readers.



A low-tech, but useful device is the television. ELs can turn on the closed captioning feature for a relaxing, enjoyable way to build listening skills.

Speaking

For students who are ready to challenge their listening and speaking skills, the [Speaky](#) app provides an international language exchange community where users can practice language socially.

Other popular language learning tools include [Duolingo](#), which enables students to learn over 20 languages through gamification and [Babbel](#), which offers lessons crafted by language experts, and voiced by native speakers, to get a student ready for real-life language situations.



Check out  [Seesaw](#):



Adobe Spark

Presentation

When it comes to helping ELs show what they know about a topic (comprehension), there are digital tools that allow students to verbally share their ideas with fewer words/more visuals, or help them use their speaking skills if they are still developing writing skills.

- [SeeSaw](#): free digital portfolio that also allows for access to the classroom from home
- [Blabberize](#): allows students to create talking images
 - [Vocaroo](#): online voice recorder
- [Animoto](#) and [Adobe Spark](#): video stories

Most importantly, get to know your student(s) and his or her family, and celebrate their heritage and culture. The best strategy is to be patient as you find creative ways to engage all students, including ELs, in authentic literacy learning