TECHNOLOGY IN CLASSROOM: TOOL IN IMPROVING READING AND COMPREHENSION

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Aside from regular Drill, Read Aloud, and Utilizing the Art of Questioning, any other valuable tool we can use in improving reading and comprehension? Yes, we can bring the latest technology to our classroom. This can create great excitement and motivation for our learners.

Text-to-speech (TTS) Technology allows learners to hear a digital text aloud (read aloud while texting). Hearing words through a click of a button or touching by a finger using a computer / a device. Smartphones and tablets too can be used. It's like just a reading fun game.

The sound/voice in TTS is computer-generated. There are built-in devices, some are web-based, and apps also can be downloaded. There are literacy software programs also as Read &Write in Google Chrome. It can be set as fast/slow reading, human-like, robotic, and can even sound a kid's voice, so natural. Children usually have difficulty decoding and understanding printed words. Unlike in ordinary drills, when learners manipulate a computer, tablet/ device, there's an added level up curiosity with thrilled emotions. It provides a multi-sensory reading experience as readers see and hear through a fitting gadget.

Learning through the discovery of simplified word / printed messages, so captivating to kids' interest.

Optical Character Recognition (OCR) is also related to TTS Technology, the emphasis lies with which kind of materials to be read. OCR can be utilized when our

learners need to comprehend images and pictures. Words in pictures can be read by OCR. Taken shots of records, documents in Excel files and even street signs can be read aloud. This makes our reading-to-comprehension presentation easier to prepare and effective as well. Wow, isn't that amazing for us teachers? What more it can offer to children / our pupils?

Let's discuss more. Have you heard about "Rewordify"? There are difficult words to understand, which can be analyzed by a certain website, to provide simplified words. It's more than a dictionary because a phrase/sentence can be set. For example, by texting/typing / pasting words – "recurring phenomena amidst the dark" will be interpreted, as "repeating important events or patterns of things in the middle of the dark". This enhances the vocabulary of the students.

In a Google Chrome extension, Snap&Read Universal, we can listen to text as it reads aloud across websites, PDFs, and Google Drive.

Do you want your learners and you yourselves to experience the power of the remarkable core and data-driven instruction all in one? It's free and we can explore it in our classroom.

Yes, we have a lot more nowadays. All we must do is maximize the benefits of our recent technology, available for free on our computers, gadgets/websites. Before, we had to go to the library, now with the flip of our fingers within our class sessions we could be. We could enhance reading as well as comprehension within our teaching-learning hub. Do master mechanics, and how these work.

Here, TTS with OCR is one of them…

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References:

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