

ReadSpeaker® for Moodle

This product specification includes all information relevant to the implementation of ReadSpeaker for Moodle.

ReadSpeaker for Moodle speech enables the HTML content of course pages in the customer's Moodle environment to enable logged-in users to listen to the text. Any user can hear their HTML course content spoken aloud or download it as an mp3 using only their internet browser. Users can also highlight and play a subset of the content. ReadSpeaker for Moodle has many extra features, including synchronized highlighting of the text while it is read, reading and translation tools, as well as document reading.

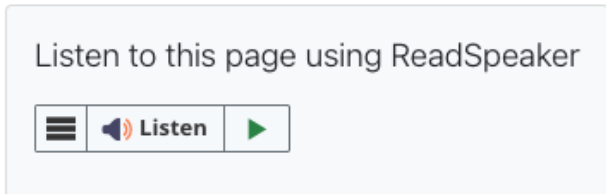
All paragraphs in the [product specification for ReadSpeaker webReader](#) ("webReader) apply to ReadSpeaker for Moodle, unless a paragraph with the same title is included in this document, in which case the paragraph in this document applies. So, in sense you can consider this document to be an addendum to the product specification for webReader, where you should read "website" as "LMS", "customer" as "customer or LMS administrator", and "web page" as "content page within the LMS". Generally, "user" will be a student in the LMS.

Product Description

Access to ReadSpeaker for Moodle is organized through block instances of the ReadSpeaker Moodle block. Using Moodle's block features, the LMS administrator can activate or deactivate ReadSpeaker for Moodle at many different levels.

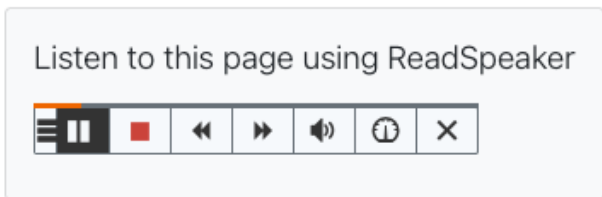
ReadSpeaker for Moodle functions as described in the section “Product Description” of the product specification for webReader.

However, the webReader Listen button can present differently in Moodle. It can show in a Moodle block. The Moodle administrator creates block instances and determines on which pages, and where on the page the block instance is shown. Or it can show at the top of the page content, where it looks just the same as in webReader.



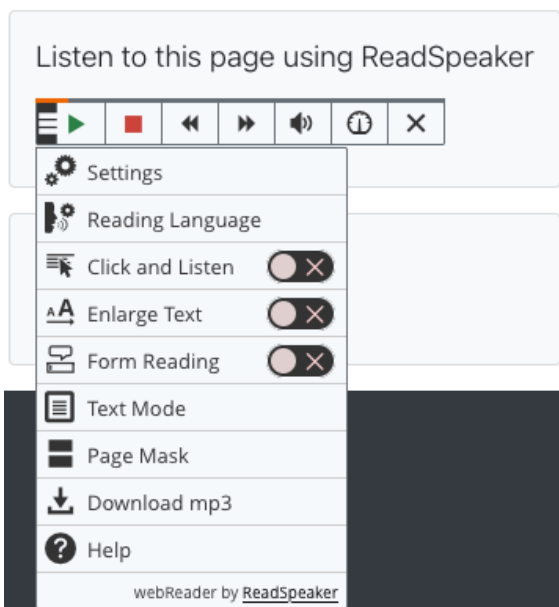
Listen button in ReadSpeaker Moodle block

The player looks different in Moodle when displayed in a Moodle block, as it is trimmed to fit into the block.



Trimmed player in ReadSpeaker Moodle block

The menu, when expanded, will not fit into the block:



Player and menu in ReadSpeaker Moodle block

The customer can purchase licenses for one or multiple languages (and for one or multiple voices per language). The LMS administrator can set the default language and voice, and can overwrite this language or voice per block instance. In this manner, he can set a different language or voice for a specific course or page.

Adding the ReadSpeaker for Moodle functionality is simple: ReadSpeaker distributes a Moodle Block using the same packaging as all other Moodle Blocks. The Moodle Administrator just needs to copy the folder containing the ReadSpeaker Moodle block to the Moodle block folder on their server, follow the automated steps within Moodle to make it available, configure a few settings, and add instances of the ReadSpeaker Moodle block to the courses and/or pages that must be speech enabled.

Features

Most webReader features work in ReadSpeaker for Moodle exactly as described in the product specification for webReader.

Floating Listen Button, Player, and Menu

The behaviour of the Listen button, player and menu is essentially the same as described in the product specification for webReader. By default, they are in the ReadSpeaker Moodle block, but the customer can choose to have them displayed in the content area. When the user scrolls on the page so that the player is outside of the browser window, it will float to a different position so as to remain visible and show the drag icon. When floating, both the Listen button and the player will look the same as they do in webReader. If the floating Listen button and player were launched from a Moodle block on the left or right sidebar, users can dock them using the close button, which will bring the Listen button back to the Moodle block.

Customer-Defined Reading Area

It is possible to specify the area that will be read on pages which are speech enabled by ReadSpeaker for Moodle in the settings of the main ReadSpeaker Moodle block. By default this is set to "region-main". To change this you need to

know the ID of the element you want to be read. Please note that the element used should be a block-level element, such as a <div> or <section>.

Multiple Languages - Different Languages for Different Pages

This paragraph in the product specification for webReader does not apply to ReadSpeaker for Moodle. The following paragraph replaces it.

Multiple Languages - Different Languages for Different Courses

Available if the customer has purchased a license for more than one language. Different courses and even different course pages can then be read in different languages. Generally, ReadSpeaker for Moodle will be added at course level and applied to all pages in that course and within a course one language and voice will be used. But Moodle's block features offer many other possibilities, including creating or hiding block instances for individual pages. When a block instance is created, the language and voice determined in the configuration of the main ReadSpeaker Moodle block at installation will be used by default, but another licensed language/voice can be chosen.

MathML Support

This feature is on by default in ReadSpeaker for Moodle.

Document Reading

The product specification for webReader has a section "docReader Add-On" under "Options". But ReadSpeaker docReader ("docReader") is included in ReadSpeaker for Moodle. So customers who purchase ReadSpeaker for Moodle can integrate docReader into their Moodle LMS at no extra cost, allowing users to listen to online documents in the LMS. A docReader icon is added next to links to supported documents. When clicked, the document opens in a new tab within the docReader interface. Please refer to the [product specification for docReader](#) for further details.

Technical Specifications

Simple Implementation

Adding the ReadSpeaker functionality is simple. The Moodle Administrator just needs to copy the folder containing the block provided by ReadSpeaker to the Moodle block folder on their server, follow the automated steps within Moodle to make it available, and configure a few settings. ReadSpeaker Moodle block instances can then be activated at various levels (e.g. for all pages in the Moodle environment, for all courses, for a specific course, or for specific pages) by adding instances of the ReadSpeaker Moodle block. Some parameters can then be configured for each instance, notably the language and voice to be used.

The webReader interface automatically uses the same language as Moodle. The language is determined by the Moodle system, course, or user language settings. If the selected language is not available in webReader, English (en_us) will be used instead.

Administrators can choose to have the Listen button show at the top of the main content area, like in webReader on a website, instead of in a Moodle block, which is the default for ReadSpeaker for Moodle. This way the Listen button, player, and menu behave as described in the webReader product specification. The implementation is still technically in a Moodle block, it just doesn't look like other Moodle blocks.

Graphical Design

This technical specification does not apply for ReadSpeaker for Moodle.

Configuration Settings

The same settings can be set as described in the product specification for webReader and menu features can be hidden by the LMS administrator by inserting sections of HTML code and/or JavaScript code under "Additional HTML" under Site administration. Instructions can be obtained from ReadSpeaker. Disabling features completely can be done by ReadSpeaker upon request.

Administrators can enable a restricted mode for each webReader block instance. In this mode, certain features (such as translation or dictionary) can be disabled by the ReadSpeaker support team.

Administrators can also enable a setting to use the latest version of webReader in ReadSpeaker for Moodle. This way, the new version can be tested before requesting an update.

webReader in ReadSpeaker for Moodle can be configured to automatically capture the course name, section name, and page title. This information is then available in the usage statistics within the ReadSpeaker customer portal.

webReader in ReadSpeaker for Moodle can also be configured to detect the source language for the translation feature based on either the **page language** or the **language set in webReader**. This requires webReader version 3.8.7 or later.

JavaScript Support

Unless Moodle is set to 'public', i.e. no login is required, ReadSpeaker for Moodle will only work if the browser used supports JavaScript and has JavaScript enabled for the ReadSpeaker scripts. If Moodle is set to 'public', the section "JavaScript support" from the product specification for webReader applies.

docReader Integration

The customer can choose to integrate docReader in the LMS or not. For docReader to work in ReadSpeaker for Moodle, the docReader server must be able to fetch and parse documents from the Moodle platform. This platform must therefore be publicly available to the docReader server. There should not be any firewall or other software that prevents the docReader proxy component from making a request to the Moodle platform to retrieve documents.

Product Components

SaaS Application

The core of ReadSpeaker for Moodle is the webReader SaaS (Software As A Service) application, hosted by ReadSpeaker. After successful implementation and configuration of the ReadSpeaker Moodle Block by the System Administrator, this SaaS is accessible to all users from the pages on which ReadSpeaker for Moodle has been activated through a ReadSpeaker Moodle block instance.

JavaScript and HTML Code

ReadSpeaker for Moodle consists of a zip file containing a folder with files that must be copied to the Moodle block folder. The files contain the ReadSpeaker Moodle block, which refers to the SaaS hosted by ReadSpeaker. The block will automatically insert the HTML code and JavaScripts necessary to make ReadSpeaker for Moodle work.

Implementation Instructions and Customer ID

Clear implementation instructions, a customer ID that must be entered during configuration of the ReadSpeaker Moodle block, and other documentation such as FAQ are included and available to the customer through the ReadSpeaker customer portal.

Customer Portal

The Customer receives login instructions for the ReadSpeaker customer portal. Here, the customer can access account information, statistical information about the use of ReadSpeaker for Moodle, implementation instructions, FAQs, and instructions for contacting support in case of questions or problems.

Options

Custom Listen Button, Player, and Menu

This is not an option for ReadSpeaker for Moodle.

Requirements and Limitations

Document Reading

This feature requires that the Moodle platform is publicly available to the docReader server. There should not be any firewall or other software that prevents the docReader proxy component from making a request to the Moodle platform to retrieve documents.

Depending on the Moodle theme used for a course, document reading may not be available everywhere documents are shown. It will be available for documents on course pages in Moodle and documents that appear in the Navigation block.

Disclaimer

In addition to the content of the disclaimer in the product specification for webReader, ReadSpeaker cannot guarantee that ReadSpeaker for Moodle will continue to work as specified in this document if Moodle implements changes to the Moodle LMS.