



## How to Use Graded Readers in the Classroom

### What are graded readers?

Graded readers are stories that are written especially for learners of English. They are often adapted from existing stories.



### WHY SHOULD I USE GRADED READERS WITH MY STUDENTS?

- Reading in English can be intimidating and overwhelming for students whose level is not advanced. Graded readers offer a more **relaxing** read.
- Research has shown that **students who read in English improve in every area of language learning more quickly** than students who don't read.
- My graded readers are carefully adapted from the original versions, with **vocabulary** and **grammar** that is **adjusted to the level of your students**. The length of the book is also adjusted, getting longer as the level increases.
- Graded readers have **definitions of difficult words** at the back so students don't have to spend time looking words up in a dictionary.
- Reading allows students to learn **new vocabulary and grammatical structures in context**.
- Graded readers are a way to **learn effortlessly, without any extra studying**. Reading an interesting and exciting story won't feel like 'work' to them. This will encourage them to read more.

## HOW DO I CHOOSE THE CORRECT LEVEL OF GRADED READER?

The levels of my graded readers are based on the **Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)**. All the words and all the grammatical structures in each book are carefully selected so that they are suitable for students at that level. Books also increase in length as the level increases. This way, the stories are exactly the right level and length for your students and they will enjoy reading them. They will also learn new vocabulary because each book has lots of new words. Those words have definitions in the back so students won't have to use a dictionary.

My books run from CEFR level A1+ (which means a confident A1) up to B2. Here are the approximate corresponding levels.

CEFR level	Corresponding level
B2	Upper intermediate
B1	Intermediate
A2	Pre-intermediate
A1+	Elementary +

If you're not exactly sure of your students' reading level, give them a sample of one of the stories.

- They should find reading it comfortable.
- At levels **A1+ to A2**, they should encounter **1 to 3 new words per 100 words**.
- At levels **B1 to B2**, they should encounter **3 to 5 new words per 100 words**.

At all levels, the goal is to make new vocabulary feel **natural and easy to learn through context** rather than forcing memorisation.

## HOW CAN I USE GRADED READERS WITH MY STUDENTS?

There are **two ways** to use the graded readers with your classes.

### METHOD 1 – HOMEWORK OR HOLIDAY READING

#### Class Library

Create a class library of graded readers and direct students to select a book. They should choose one that is **suitable for their level** so you may need to advise them on this (see the information on levels above).

They **read the graded reader at home**. Then they write about it and you collect in their homework and mark it.

There are **resources** with ideas for tasks you can set [on my website](#). You will find short, fun activities, creative writing activities, a reading journal, and more.

#### Bookclub

You could also encourage students to set up a **bookclub**, where they choose a graded reader to read together outside of class.

They can **meet regularly** to discuss the story, share their thoughts on the characters and plot and help each other with any difficult vocabulary.

This not only improves their reading skills but also **makes reading a more social and enjoyable experience**.

You could **provide a few discussion questions** to guide their conversations or suggest that they take turns leading each session.

## METHOD 2 – CLASS WORK

### 1. Introduce the Book

Choose a graded reader that is **appropriate for the level** of your class. Introduce the book to the class. There is an in-depth resource on **warmer activities** [on my website](#), so take a look at that.

The important thing is to get your class excited about the story!

### 2. Read One Chapter at a Time

Then have students read one chapter at a time. They can do this:

- for **homework** before each class
- by **listening to you** reading out the chapter during the class while they follow along in their own copies of the story
- by **listening to** [my audiobook versions](#) of the stories together in class
- by **taking it in turns** to read out a paragraph to the whole class or in small groups
- by **taking on one role each**, each student playing the part of one of the characters.

### 3. During-Reading Activities

Reading **one chapter at a time** helps students process the story in manageable sections and gives them time to engage with the language.

Do some class **activities after each chapter**. There is a **resource** with lots of ideas for during-reading activities [on my website](#).

### 4. After-Reading Activities

At the end of the book, take some time to **review** the story as a whole. You can set up a group **discussion** on the book with suggested discussion questions or students can complete **writing** tasks. [See my website](#) for ideas.

Graded readers are a flexible tool, and you can adapt these methods to suit your students' needs and learning styles. The most important thing is to make reading an enjoyable and rewarding experience for them.

**To view all available books, visit:**

**[ReadStories-LearnEnglish.com/all-our-books](https://ReadStories-LearnEnglish.com/all-our-books).**