

**Purpose**

To give practice in fluent reading without putting the learner on the spot to read difficult material alone. Duet reading also helps the new reader learn to

- pay attention to punctuation marks
- develop good eye movement in order to keep the place
- read words in natural phrases
- increase the number of sight words
- read with expression
- read for enjoyment

**How**

(Use duet reading after the learner develops some basic sight vocabulary.)

1. **Choose something a little too hard for the learner.** Help the learner select something that is somewhat above his or her current independent reading level. The material should be on a topic of interest to the learner. It may be a book, magazine or newspaper article, pamphlet, or brochure.
2. **Begin reading together.** Sit next to the learner and read aloud together from the same selection. Read at a normal speed, using expression and observing punctuation. The learner reads along, trying to keep up with you.
3. **Use your finger.** Move your finger beneath the line as you read to help the learner keep up.
4. **Keep going.** Continue to read at a normal rate even if the learner hesitates or falls behind. Stop if the learner stops reading completely.
5. **Don't ask questions.** Do not stop to explain the meaning of a word unless the learner asks. Do not ask any questions to check the learner's understanding. This material is to be used only as an oral reading exercise.
6. **Decide if the reading material is too hard or too easy.** If the learner keeps up easily, select more challenging material. If the material seems too difficult, use something that may be easier because it is written more simply or because the learner knows more about the subject.

**Suggestions**

- Use duet reading only for brief periods (7 to 10 minutes).
- Don't ask the learner to read aloud from the material alone. Since it is above the learner's independent reading level, that could be a frustrating experience.
- If you use duet reading at the beginning of a lesson, reread part of the same selection with the learner before the end of the lesson. Then the learner can see how much easier it gets with practice.
- You can also use this technique with the learner's own writing or with stories at the learner's level to practice fluent reading.