

How to Use Voice Devices and Audio in the Classroom

Voice and audio technology can be used in explicit or subtle ways in the classroom to enhance learning and increase engagement.

Learn Basic Skills

Math: Voice devices can take various actions to help students learn math. Ask the device to flip a coin, pick a card, roll a die, pick a number between [x and x], or use the number counter. You can also use it as a way to solve simple math questions as a self-check tool.

Language Arts: Voice devices can help teach basic language arts skills. Just prompt your voice device to spell, define, or find a synonym for a specific word.

Weather: Start the day with a weather lesson. Let the students know what the forecast is for the day.

Classroom Tools

Music: Set the tone of the classroom by a simple voice command while students are studying or doing an activity.

Time and Reminders : Create efficiencies for yourself and your students by setting up reminders when it is time to transition to the next lesson or event of the day.

Custom Learning Skills

“**Alexa Skill Blueprints**” are easily customizable skills that you and your students can use to create trivia contests, listening quizzes, flash cards, story quizzes, sets of facts, and other content formats. Devices can be used to help students memorize information such as their multiplication facts, spelling words, or foreign language vocabulary. You can create engaging in-class experiences, and these can be shared with students who have a voice device at home to use as a homework study tool.

Listening and Critical-Thinking Skills

To help students listen actively, have them listen to audio pieces to identify the following:

Voices: Ask students to identify the host, narrator, interviewer, storyteller, interviewee, or characters.

Sounds: Get students to identify the music, sound effects (denotes “action,” such as a car door being slammed, a spoon stirring hot chocolate), and background noise (a mix of sounds denoting “setting,” such as a playground or a grocery store).

Story Elements: Guide students through the plot, setting, and theme of stories.

Good places to find audio content

Listenwise

Curated audio news stories and lessons in social studies, science, and language arts. Includes daily current event audio stories and free teacher accounts.

listenwise.com

Public Radio Exchange (PRX)

Thousands of audio pieces by topic and curated playlists on a range of subjects (e.g., Black History Month, Poetry Month, Veterans Day, Halloween).

exchange.prx.org/home

National Public Radio (NPR)

Archived news stories and features by topic.

npr.org

Amazon Alexa and Google Home

A variety of short stories accessed through both devices.



Britannica's Guardians of History is an immersive audio adventure that takes top-secret missions into the past – to save time from unraveling. Create a classroom experience by allowing your students to make decision points in the storyline while teaching them about ancient Greece.



Say “OK Google, play **Guardians of History**” or
“Alexa, install **Guardians of History**.”

adventure.britannica.com