

ReadSpeaker 

**LOUISE
DAWSON** 
PROFESSIONAL & MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT TRAINING

Do you feel like you are supporting your multilingual learners enough?

Improve comprehension, Foster inclusivity
& Improve outcomes



Louise Dawson

A UAE inclusion specialist.

Inclusion Advocacy:

- Assistive Technology
- SEND, EAL & Advanced
- School Improvement
- Child and Parent Support
- Product Awareness



**LOUISE
DAWSON**
PROFESSIONAL & MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT TRAINING

Today's speakers



Yassir Abbassi

ReadSpeaker 



Richard Risholm

ReadSpeaker 



Y&R
Hello

ReadSpeaker

12,000 customers

70 countries

25 years experience

Dedicated local team

200+ voices

50+ languages

Y



Blackboard



An estimated **1.3 billion** people experience significant disability. This represents **16%** of the world's population, or **1 in 6** of us.

Source: WHO



تحويل النص إلى صوت بدعم الذكاء الاصطناعي

التعلم التعلّم المحسّنة بالصوت

الضغط والإستماع - اقرأ أي محتوى بصوت مسموع, علي أي جهاز



أدوات للترجمة بأكثر من 200 صوت وأكثر من 50 لغة

أصوات عربية واقعية

تجربة متكاملة, سهولة الوصول, و جاذبة



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استمع

☰

⚙️ الإعدادات

🔊

انقر واستمع

🔊

تكبير النص

📄

إظهار للنص

📄

قناع الصفحة

⬇️

تحميل ملف mp3

?

مساعدة

webReader by [ReadSpeaker](#)

🔊

استمع

📖

القاموس

🗣️

الترجمة

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🔊

استمع

☰

Amir
Male

▶️

Yasmin
Female

▶️



(WCAG) 2.2 compliant

Y

ReadSpeaker provides text to speech and learning tools to support a diverse student population

Today's topic

Diverse linguistic backgrounds in the Gulf region leads us to address the linguistic needs of all EAL learners

Y

ReadSpeaker 

Did you know?

40% of students globally don't access education in a language they understand.

40%

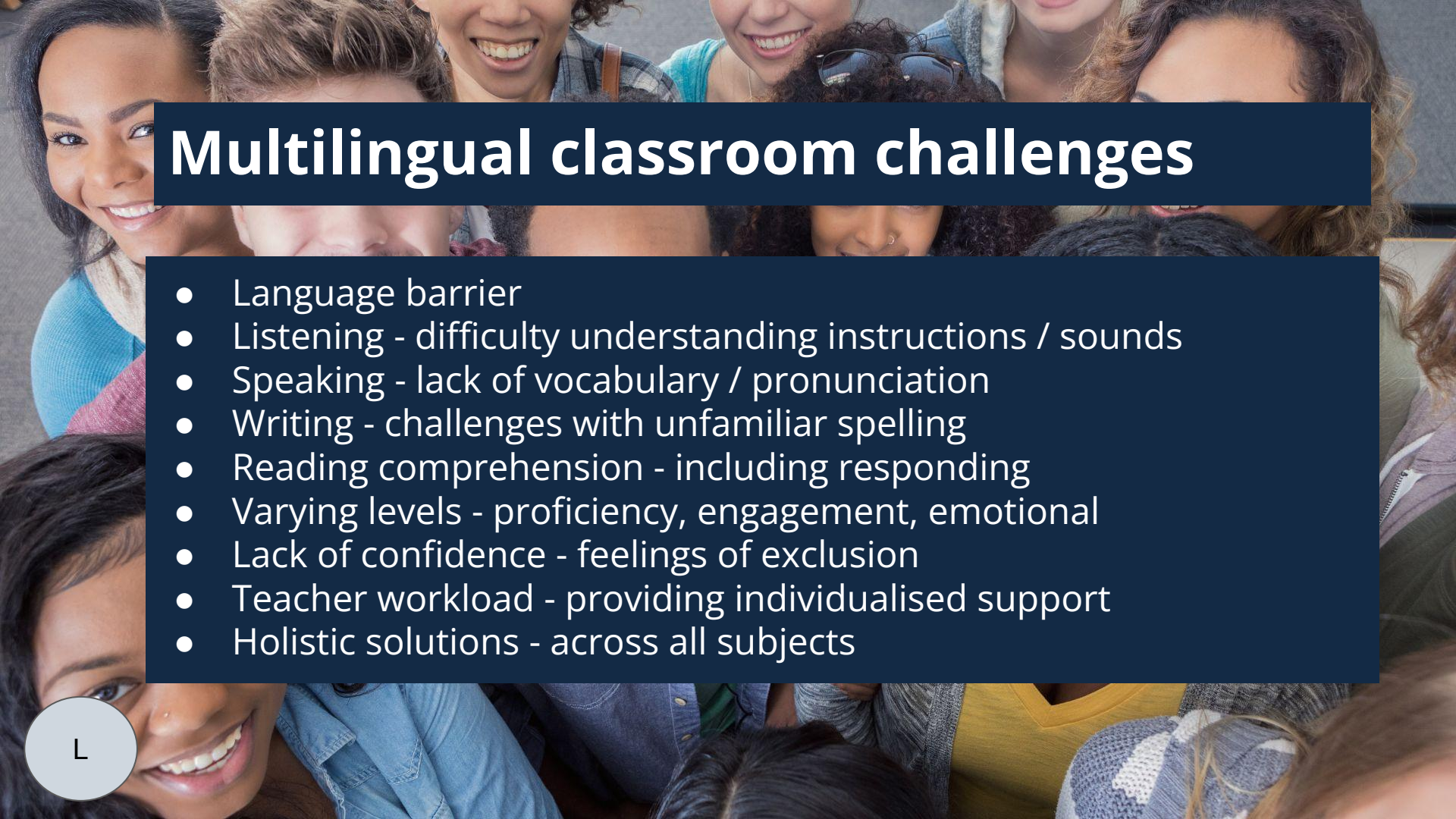
In the GCC, non-nationals account for 52% of the population.

52%

In the UAE, native emirates account for only 13% of the population

13%





Multilingual classroom challenges

- Language barrier
- Listening - difficulty understanding instructions / sounds
- Speaking - lack of vocabulary / pronunciation
- Writing - challenges with unfamiliar spelling
- Reading comprehension - including responding
- Varying levels - proficiency, engagement, emotional
- Lack of confidence - feelings of exclusion
- Teacher workload - providing individualised support
- Holistic solutions - across all subjects

Types of Intervention

- Literacy (phonics, comprehension)
- Numeracy
- Social/emotional
- Behavioural
- One to one
- Classroom
- Peer to peer
- Executive function
- Homework
- Exam access arrangements
- Assistive technology



Don't just tell a different version of the same story...



EQUALITY



EQUITY



LIBERATION

Change the story!



Definitions in the UAE

EAL – English as an Additional Language

Advanced English learner who may have been nurtured from birth in one or more language including English

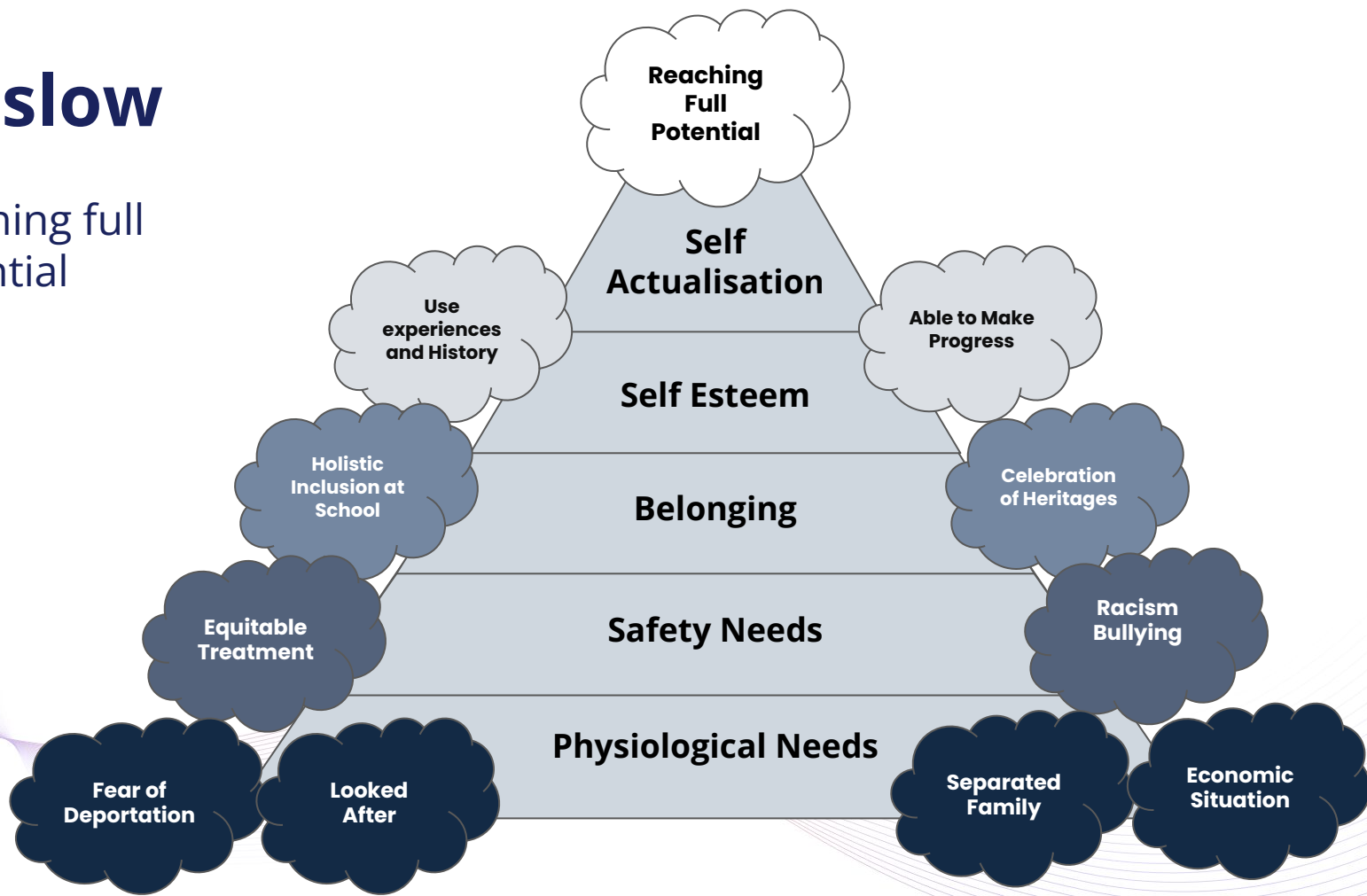
ELL – English Language Learner

A learner who is beginning to learn English and has been nurtured since birth in a different language



Maslow

Reaching full potential



Students must

MASLOW

Before they can

BLOOM

L



A growing case for **Universal Design for Learning (UDL)** to support multilingual learners

Multiple Means of Engagement:

Different ways to encourage excitement and interest in the topic / learning. (e.g., hooks, choices, teamwork)

Multiple Means of Representation:

Present information in different formats (e.g., text, images, audio)

Multiple Means of Action and Expression:

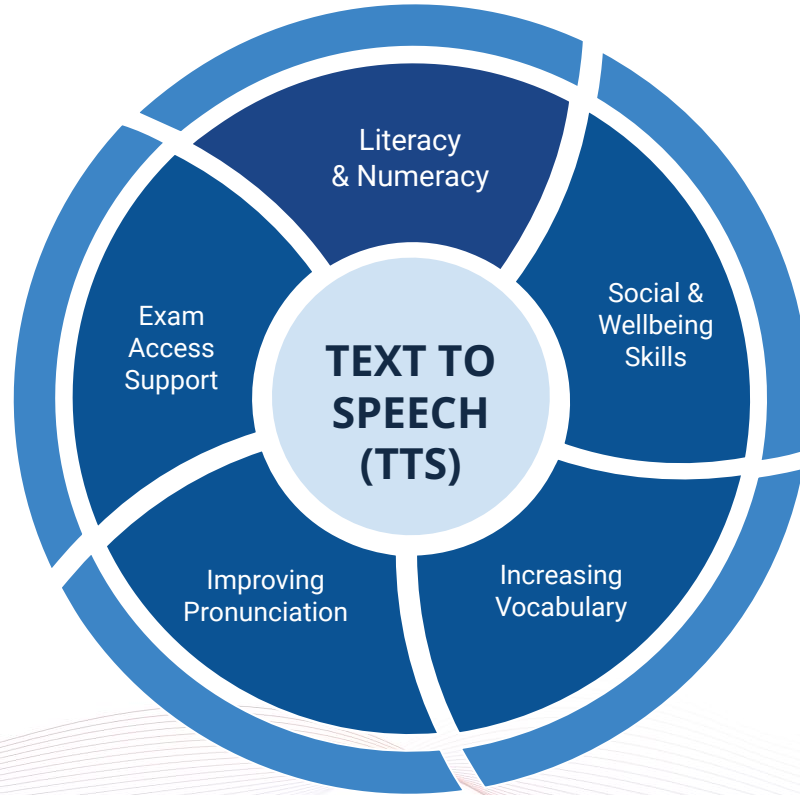
Demonstrate learning in different ways (e.g., writing, speaking, podcasts, videos, drawing).

Flexibility and Accessibility:

Make the learning environment and materials easy to use and adjust for everyone.



Assistive Technology at the Heart





Assistive technology addresses diverse multilingual learner needs

- Provides translation & pronunciation support
- Improves reading fluency
- Improves comprehension and retention
- Gives an alternative way to access information



**Text to Speech is an essential element of
Assistive Technology, creating an audio
version of content**

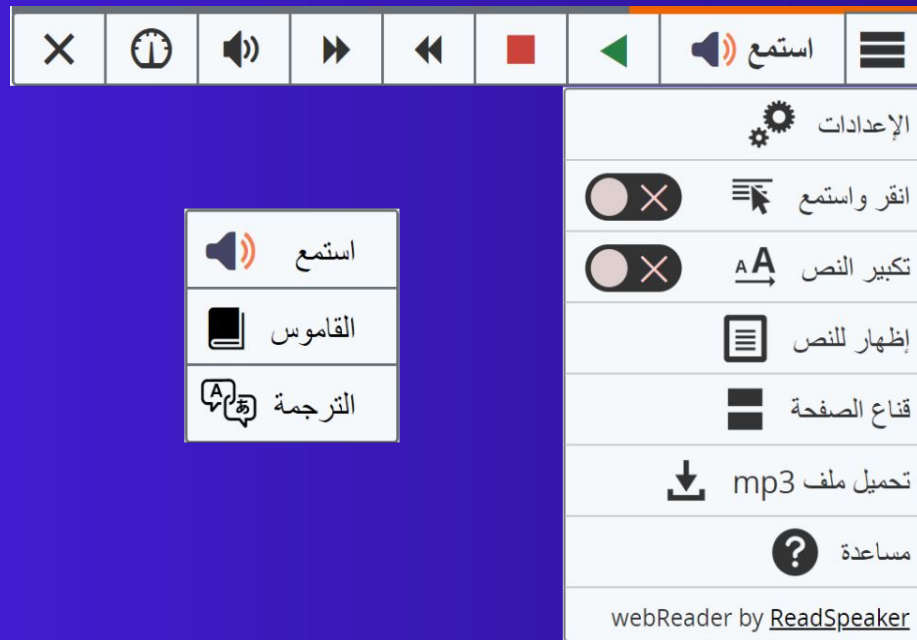
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ReadSpeaker brings TTS to digital learning content

- Listen with one click
- Speech-enhanced learning tools
- Assessment and accommodations support
- 50+ languages, 200+ high-quality, natural-sounding voices
- Access to usage statistics
- WCAG, GDPR compliant
- Easy integration
- Experienced support team

Y



Who benefits from Text to Speech?



Engagement

Bimodal presentation
Comprehension
UDL
Online learning
Learning choice



Accessibility

Neurodiverse learners
Dyslexia
Learning disability
Foreign born
Multilingual learners
Cognitive load



Convenience

Student workload
Teacher workload
All devices
Exam mode
All content types

Accessible design is just good design, creating a superior user experience for ALL users



ReadSpeaker 

LMS integration



Blackboard®

King Faisal University &
Princess Nourah bint
Abdulrahman University



جامعة الأميرة نورة بنت عبد الرحمن
Princess Nourah bint Abdulrahman University

Text to Speech in action

A joint study

ReadSpeaker 



UNIVERSITAT DE
BARCELONA

20% of Students

Found that Text-To-Speech significantly boosts their focus while engaging with lengthy written materials in their own language.

65% of Students

when the language of choice is English.

Y

Multimodal Campus Project: Pilot Test of Voice Supported Reading ☆

Marina Salse Rovira ^{a, 1} ✉, Mireia Ribera Turro ^{b, 2} ✉, Rosa Maria Satorras Fioretti ^{a, b, 3} ✉, Miquel Centelles Velilla ^{a, b} ✉

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Abstract

Nowadays, education systems should offer flexibility to serve any kind of learners, including those with special needs. “Campus Multimodal” project took advantage of Moodle Learning Management System to offer students two reading aid tools:  and ReadSpeaker. A pilot test was run with one thousand students during a semester and the mentioned tools usefulness was measured through an interview and user logs. Results confirm the existence of widespread reading and writing problems among higher education students and also the utility of speech technology to minimize them.

ReadSpeaker Arabic Voices



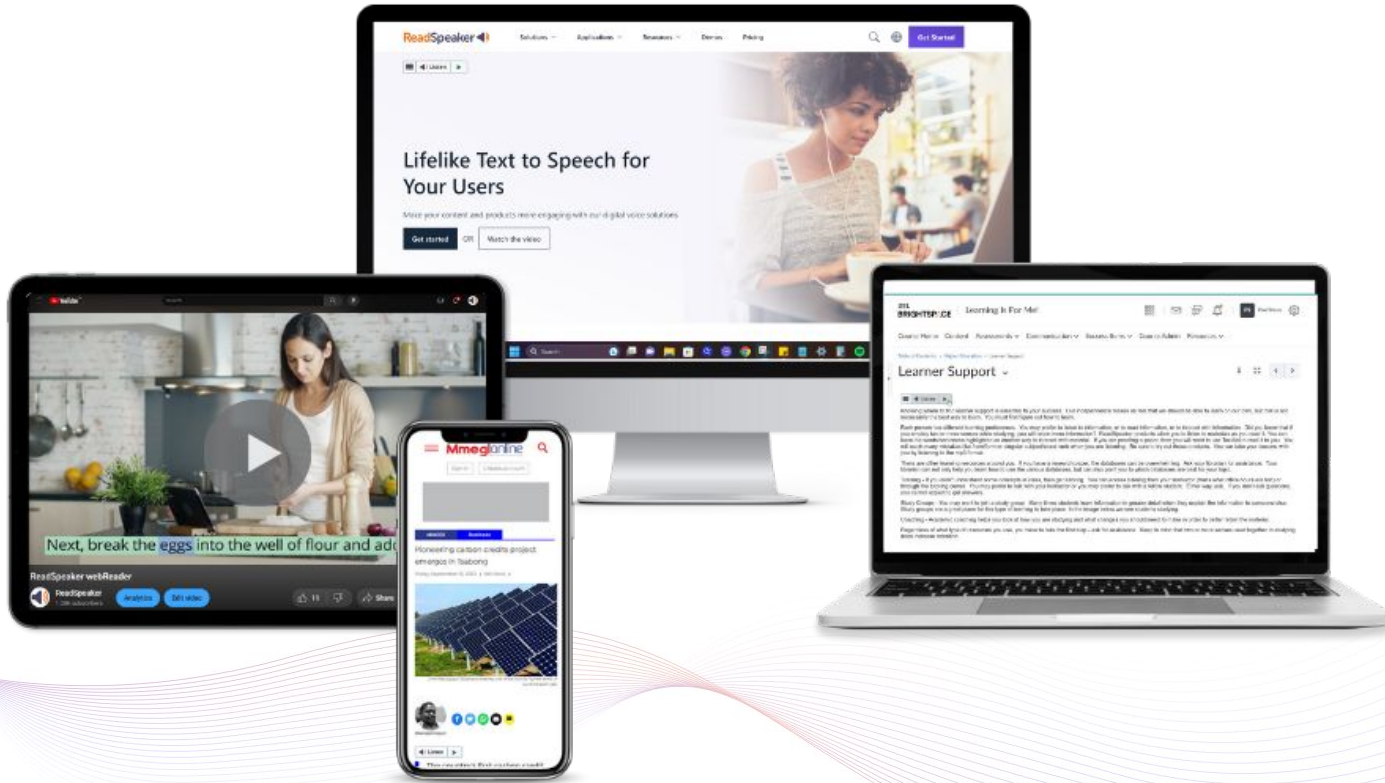
Amir - أمير



Yasmin - ياسمين



Live Demo



R



Q&A

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Contact us for more information or to set up a **demo**