

How Do I Choose Which Series to Use: *Laubach Way to Reading*, *Challenger*, or *Journey to Success*?

You can give very beginning readers the *Laubach Way to Reading (LWR) Diagnostic Inventory*. If students have considerable difficulty with the tool, they should probably start with *LWR Skill Book 1*. If students do fairly well with the preliminary material in LWR, try the Placement Tool for *Journey to Success Introductory Level*. If students do fairly well with that, then consider starting them in *Journey to Success Introductory*. If they do well on the *Introductory Level*, try the placement tool for *Journey Level 1*, to see if that level is a better fit.

You can also show a student the appropriate level book from each series you are considering. For example, you might show a student both *LWR Skill Book 1* and *Journey Introductory* or *Level 1*. Let the student look through each one. Discuss the major differences.

LWR, *Challenger*, and *Journey* each emphasize different things. Which series is most appropriate will depend on what the tutor and student are comfortable with, the student's goals, and the student's particular needs, learning style, strengths, and weaknesses.

Laubach Way to Reading (LWR)

- is particularly good for students who like or need:
 - new information introduced in small chunks
 - a lot of reinforcement
 - a lot of teacher direction
 - one-on-one tutoring
- is strong in teaching phonics
- strictly controls the amount of vocabulary presented. *Skill Book 1* introduces 132 words. There are about 1,600 different words in the four-book series.
- is good for tutors who like or need a lot of structure. The teacher's manuals, with their teacher/student scripts, give tutors extensive support

Challenger

- is particularly good for students who:
 - have a very basic sight vocabulary and some knowledge of phonics
 - enjoy stories and informational readings with a classical flavor
 - find short answer exercises effective in improving basic skills
- is particularly strong in vocabulary development and literal-level comprehension exercises
- is a controlled vocabulary series, but each book introduces more words than *LWR*. *Challenger 1* contains about 1,500 words.
- is good for tutors who like support and structure while having the opportunity to be creative

Journey to Success

- is particularly good for students who:
 - are eager to improve their reading and writing skills in order to advance to pre-HSE and HSE preparation
 - want to read nonfiction and fiction texts on a variety of topics relevant to adults today
 - enjoy discussing questions as well as answering open response and multiple choice questions
- has a strong balanced approach. In each lesson students engage in reading, writing, listening, speaking, and critical thinking in meaningful ways.
- is not a controlled vocabulary series. Relevant, useful vocabulary is introduced in the context of themed readings on work and life skills, social studies, science, and literature. Students analyze words and generate additional words in each level.
- is good for tutors who want some structure and assistance but who are confident and flexible and enjoy helping students explore ideas.

Comparison of Laubach Way to Reading, Challenger, and Journey to Success

Category	LWR	Challenger	Journey
Instructional Emphasis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heavy emphasis on skill development • Heavy emphasis on phonics and structural analysis • Direct skills instruction • 4 major strands <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - phonics skills - word recognition skills - comprehension skills - writing and spelling skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heavy emphasis on skill development • Heavy emphasis on comprehension and vocabulary • Indirect skills instruction • 7 strands <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - phonics - word analysis - vocabulary - comprehension - literary understanding - writing - study skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Built on the four principles of Evidence-Based Reading Instruction (EBRI) and the Essential Components of Reading <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - alphabetics - vocabulary - fluency (levels 3-6) - comprehension • Reading, writing, critical thinking, listening, speaking, fluency integrated in each lesson

Category	LWR	Challenger	Journey
Audience: Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Starts at level 0 Good for students who like or need <ul style="list-style-type: none"> new information introduced in small chunks lots of reinforcement consistency in lesson design a lot of teacher direction one-on-one tutoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Starts at level 1 Good for students who <ul style="list-style-type: none"> have basic sight vocabulary and some knowledge of phonics like to be emotionally and intellectually involved in what they read like a wide variety of exercises like to do short answer/fill in the blank exercises enjoy solving puzzles can work independently 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Starts at level 0 Good for students who <ul style="list-style-type: none"> want to construct meaning when reading and writing want to apply what they learn to their own lives and future goals want to read relevant nonfiction and literature want to interact with and expand upon what is in the book enjoy discussing questions enjoy peer reviews and group activities want to achieve high school equivalency
Audience: Tutors/Teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good for tutors/teachers who <ul style="list-style-type: none"> like structure and support may be new to teaching 4 teacher's manuals, with individual lesson notes that include teacher/student dialogs, provide extensive support for tutors/teachers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good for tutors/teachers who <ul style="list-style-type: none"> like structure and support want an opportunity to be creative Teacher's manuals feature individual lesson notes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good for tutors/teachers who <ul style="list-style-type: none"> want some structure are confident and flexible enjoy helping students explore their own ideas Teacher's guides with individual lesson notes, photocopy masters, and extension activities
Tutor/Teacher Role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teacher directed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teacher directed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teacher facilitated with strong learner involvement

Category	LWR	Challenger	Journey
Books/Levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 books • 0-4 reading level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 books <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1-4: Learning to Read - 5-8: Reading to Learn • 1-8 approximate reading level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 books <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Intro-2: Learning to Read - 3-6: Reading to Learn - 7-8: Preparing for Pre-High School Equivalency Study • 0-8 reading level
Reading Selections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stories with adult themes written specifically for Skill Books 1-3 • Stories written to introduce sounds and words, especially in Skill Books 1-2 • Informational readings in Skill Book 4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Light-hearted stories in 1 and 3 • Short informational readings in 2 and 4 • Classical literature and informational selections in Challenger 5-8 • Thematic units in Challenger 6-8 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stories with adult themes written for Introductory • Themed units in 1 and 2 with passages on everyday life, the world around us, history, and fiction • Nonfiction passages in 3-8 based on themes: work and life skills, social studies, and science. Fiction passages adapted from known literary works • Reading comprehension supported by a variety of graphic organizers, diagrams, and photographs
Extras	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workbooks, correlated readers, puzzles • <i>Laubach Way to English</i> Teacher's Guide for English learners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing books, puzzles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language Skills Mini-Lessons • ELL activities in Teacher's Guides for English learners
Amount of New Vocabulary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Controlled vocabulary • approximately 1,600 words in 4-book series • Lots of repetition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Controlled vocabulary • starts with approximately 1,500 words in Book 1 and increases throughout the series 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not controlled vocabulary • Vocabulary introduced in context, and in Levels 1 and 2 with pictures, and as sight words • Students analyze and generate words in all levels
Placement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diagnostic Inventory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Placement Tool with word lists and reading selections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Placement Tool with word lists and reading selections

Category	LWR	Challenger	Journey
Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Separate end-of-book Checkups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit and end-of-book reviews 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit Reviews at the end of each unit assess reading and phonics skills Level review PDFs are available online

When should students move from one NRP series to another?

If students are happy and making progress with the series they are using, there's no reason to change.

If you want to move students from *LWR* or *Challenger* to *Journey*, the tables below give some guidance. Keep in mind that *Journey* requires students to do more independent critical thinking and composing than either *LWR* or *Challenger*, so students new to *Journey* may need some extra help with these areas. On the other hand, students may have an easier time with the reading selections in *Journey* because they will have had personal experience with many of the topics.

To move students from <i>LWR</i> to <i>Journey</i>	
If students have completed...	Start students in <i>Journey</i> ...
<i>Skill Book 1</i>	<i>Introductory</i>
<i>Skill Book 2</i>	<i>Level 1</i>
<i>Skill Book 3</i>	<i>Level 2</i>
<i>Skill Book 4</i>	<i>Level 3</i>

To move students from <i>Challenger</i> to <i>Journey</i>	
If students have completed...	Start students in <i>Journey</i> ...
<i>Challenger 1</i>	<i>Level 1</i>
<i>Challenger 2</i>	<i>Level 2</i>
<i>Challenger 3</i>	<i>Level 3</i>
<i>Challenger 4</i>	<i>Level 4</i>
<i>Challenger 5</i>	<i>Level 4 or 5</i>
<i>Challenger 6</i>	<i>Level 5 or 6</i>
<i>Challenger 7</i>	<i>Level 7 or 8</i>
<i>Challenger 8</i>	<i>Level 7 or 8</i>



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