

## CSAL Lessons

### What was the goal of the study?

The researchers wanted to determine whether instructional class sessions incorporating CSAL lessons improve literacy skills in adult learners, over and above any gains made by a comparison group participating in currently offered adult literacy classes.

### Why was the study conducted?

Determining the effectiveness of different instructional practices for adult learners may lead to new ways to improve literacy in the class setting. The study included training in basic decoding skills and reading comprehension, and included a blend of traditional face-to-face instruction and a computer-assisted intervention component.

### What did the study find?

The researchers found that participants made meaningful improvement on four reading outcomes: knowledge of the sounds that letters and combinations of letters make (e.g., 'u' makes the sound /u/; 'igh' makes the sound /i/); multisyllabic words (e.g., ability to read 'uncomprehending'), nonword reading (e.g., ability to read 'pinrop' or 'migsan'). Participants also increased in self-report of the value they ascribe to reading (e.g., more likely to endorse the item, 'Reading is something that is important to me.')

### Who participated in the study?

The participants in this study were 379 adult learners from the U.S. and Canada. Of these, 267 were intervention (treatment) participants and 112 were comparison participants.

### How was the study conducted?

Classes were offered 2.24 days per week on average, with a range of 2-4 days per week. On average, 6.07 class hours were offered per week, with a range of 5-7.25 hours per week. Class sessions included three main components: PHAST (basic skills and word reading strategies), PACES (teacher-led comprehension lessons), and AutoTutor (computer-assisted comprehension lessons). The number of class sessions ranged from 31 to 56 sessions, with an average of 38.16 sessions. To analyze the intervention outcomes, mixed-effects models were separately constructed for each of the 23 measures (ranging from knowledge of letter sounds to single word reading, comprehension and fluency) that were administered at both pretest and posttest.

### How can people use the results?

The results of this study demonstrate to practitioners that CSAL lessons may help improve adults' performance on some basic skills, including complex word reading.