

VoiceShadow Plug-in



VoiceShadow is a plug-in for Moodle that enables learners to record and upload audio to Moodle's VoiceShadow activity. VoiceShadow allows self-, peer-, and teacher-evaluations, and supports the recording of multiple audio files and user commenting. Since recordings are sorted by student names, it allows the teacher and student to easily follow a series of speaking assignments.

This plugin is largely meant for shadowing activities for language learners. Within the shadowing activities, learners listen to an ongoing speech and repeat what they hear. Recent research shows that it is a very effective technique to develop listening ability as well as speaking ability.

1) Completing a shadowing activity

A shadowing activity in Moodle is administered as follows:

- 1) The learners navigate to a specified shadowing activity in a Moodle course.
- 2) They then click the **“audio recording” tab** to start the model (target) audio listening for the shadowing activity. Learners can practice shadowing the model sound multiple times.
- 3) When they feel they are ready to record, they click “Audio record.” While listening to the model sound, the user records their voice with the recorder.

A) On PC browsers, a user can record their voice with the web-based audio recorder. The plug-in supports 2 types of recorders, a Flash-based recorder or an HTML5 audio recorder, depending on the browser selected or on the teacher's setting.

B) With iOS devices, before recording, it is necessary to install the **VoiceShadow 2 App** onto the recording devices (ie, iphone or iPad) beforehand, which is available from iTunes App Store at:

<https://itunes.apple.com/jp/app/voiceshadow-2/id1228990579?l=en&mt=8>

When clicking the “Record Audio” button, the VoiceShadow 2 App will launch and learners are asked to record audio on the App. After completing recording, they are directed back to the browser to locate the recorded audio.

C) With Android devices, the recording can be done within the mobile browser.
(Chrome and Edge web browsers are recommended.)

- 4) After learners listen to their recording, they can leave a comment before submitting the recording.
- 5) The recording and comment will appear on the “List of recordings” tab within the activity in the Moodle course.
- 6) Learners can listen to their recording again and self-evaluate their recorded speech in terms of several evaluation items, such as rhythm, intonation, etc.
- 7) Students can also evaluate each other by listening to their peers’ uploaded recordings.
- 8) Learners can receive a teacher evaluation later. If “rubric” is specified for teacher’s evaluation in the teacher’s setting page, students can receive more detailed feedback from the rubrics page later on.

2) Use this activity as a simple audio recording & uploading tool

Even though this plug-in was developed with shadowing practice in mind, it can be used to simply record and upload audio without doing shadowing.

If the goal is to have students read a passage aloud, or give a speech, this plug-in can be useful for recording and uploading the audio files to the Moodle VoiceShadow activity, where the uploaded audio files can be self-, peer-, and/or teacher-evaluated. Students can add their own comments after recording which is uploaded together with the audio file.

3) Video Shadowing

You can embed video files on the recording page so that learners can practice shadowing while watching a video instead of listening to a model audio. Enter the embedded information in the slot on the teacher’s setting page as follows:

```
<iframe src="https://www.cbsnews.com/embed/videos/kitto-katto-japans-candy-  
obsession/" id="cbsNewsVideo" frameborder="0" width="620"  
height="349"></iframe>
```

Cf. This news is available on the following site:

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/japan-really-loves-kit-kat-bars/>

4) (Extra Feature) Your voice can be transcribed with the Google Speech API

Many of the English learners are not always confident about whether they can make themselves understood by native English speakers. One way to help determine how well your speech might be understood is to use a speech recognition engine. VoiceShadow Plug-in has a built-in feature that transcribes speakers' speech by utilizing Google Speech API.

This speech-to-text function can be performed only when the recording is done **using the Chrome browser on a PC**. **Other browsers do not support this function** at this time. This feature is also **not** available **with mobile browsers**. To confirm that the recording was successful, the recordings as well as the transcription can be viewed on the "List of recording" page in the Moodle course after submission.

The Moodle server should be a secure server (i.e. using **https://** rather than **http://**) so that the user doesn't have to allow microphone access permission each time a speaking activity is completed.

FYI

VoiceShadow 2 App



This application is used with the Voice Shadow Plug-in to submit voice recordings to a Moodle course using iOS devices. Learners listen to a model speech in the target language and then repeat or shadow the spoken language. In order to use this app, you need to be running your own Moodle site (moodle.org) with the VoiceShadow 3 plug-in added to Moodle (<https://github.com/e-rasvet/voiceshadow3>).

Detailed instructions on how to use app can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QLDfVRa593Y>

Demo VoiceShadow activity in Moodle Test Site:

<https://fltrc.org/moodle/>

Username: student

Password: student

Download Info: VoiceShadow Plug-in:

<https://github.com/e-rasvet/voiceshadow3>

Put the downloaded plug-in into **mod folder** in Moodle.

This plug-in is compatible with **Moodle 3.5 or higher**.

Shadowing activity how-to video

See the following YouTube video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3yDz0NF5m00&vl=ja>