

Fact Sheet:

Symbols that support meaning

Everway

We're updating symbol support in News2you to better aid comprehension!

This change will help:

- Reduce cognitive load so students can focus on meaning, not decoding lots of icons.
- Increase clarity and support comprehension goals by limiting symbols to concrete, high-value words

Research Says:

Streamlined visuals can **increase reading comprehension** and reduce extraneous processing demands.

Over-symbolization can **slow independent reading**, distract from text, and may hinder learning to read

Targeting symbols to concrete, high-value words supports **meaning-making without overloading** students' visual attention

Top Questions Answered

Will symbols go away?

- No. Symbols remain available and will be applied to key, concrete vocabulary where they add the most instructional value.
- "We've put you in the driver's seat: symbols start Off so you can keep attention on the text, and you can turn them On anytime for the level or lesson you're teaching."



Top Questions Answered

Which words will include symbols moving forward?

We'll focus on symbols where they add the most meaning:

- Key nouns and action verbs (people, places, things, and what they do).
- Concrete descriptors (adjectives that describe observable qualities, when they clarify meaning).
- The main idea of the sentence (the most significant takeaway or central concept).

My students are used to sentence-level symbols. How can I support them?

- **Start by teaching key vocabulary** using visuals and examples of each word **in context**.
- **Guide practice by selecting the text** level that best meets your students' needs. Start with the lowest level of text and increase as your student shows comprehension of the material.

Will there be a way to choose between old and new symbolization during the transition?

- We're evaluating options to ease the transition. In the near term, Breaking News and Current Issues will phase down sentence-level symbols and expand targeted symbol support at all levels.
- The new experiences will include symbols on/off choice at each level.

Does this affect ULS?

- This change begins with News2you and establishes a consistent symbol strategy that will inform ULS and other experiences over time.

What stays the same:

- Engaging, age-respectful topics and leveled access to the same content.
- The option to use symbols—now applied more strategically to support comprehension goals.
- Ongoing product improvements guided by educator feedback.

How can I give feedback?

- Share feedback through your Customer Success Manager or the in-app "Give Feedback" option.
- We're collecting educator input throughout the transition.