



https://help.blackboard.com/Ally/Ally_for_LMS/Student/Alternative_Formats

What is ALLY?

- Tool within Blackboard to help ensure course content is accessible to every student. After your instructor attaches files to a course, Ally creates alternative formats of the file based on the original. For example, if the original file is a PDF, Ally creates audio, electronic braille, and ePub formats of the same content. These formats are made available with the original file so everything is in one convenient location.
- **Alternative formats benefit everyone.** For example, maybe you have a lot of course material to read and get eye strain, or maybe you're an auditory learner. The audio alternative (MP3 format) reads aloud the text in the original file. This also includes alternative descriptions for images, if they are provided.

How-To

Find a file in your course. Select the menu beside it and select Alternative Formats. Choose the version that is best for your needs. Select Download to save the alternative format to your device.

A screenshot of a Blackboard course interface. At the top left is a document icon. The title 'Atoms + Compounds' is in bold. To the right is a dark button labeled 'Alternative formats'. Below the title, it says 'Attached Files:'. There are three files listed: 'Elements Compounds Mixtures.ppt (723 KB)', 'Elements, Compounds & Mixtures.htm (3.763 KB)', and 'Dalton's Theory of Atoms.docx (2.348 MB)'. Each file has a small 'A' icon with a downward arrow next to it.

A screenshot of a 'Download alternative formats' dialog box. The title bar says 'Download alternative formats' with a close button. There are six radio button options:

- Tagged PDF: Structured PDF for improved use with assistive technology
- HTML: For viewing in the browser and on mobile devices
- ePub: For reading as an e-book on an iPad and other e-book readers
- Electronic braille: BRF version for consumption on electronic braille displays
- Audio: MP3 version for listening
- Translated version: A machine translated version of the original document

At the bottom, there is a line of text: 'By downloading an alternative format, you agree with the Terms of Use'. Below that are two buttons: 'Cancel' and 'Download'.

Which format should I use?

This table shows at-a-glance the best formats for your different study needs.

Your study needs	Electronic braille	Audio	PDF, OCR	PDF, Tagged	HTML, Semantic	ePub	Translated Version
Adjust text, font, and background color					●	●	
Adjust audio playback speed		●					
Commuting		●	●	●		●	●
Commuting, driving		●					
Copy, paste, and search			●	●	●	●	●
Format adapts to device, responsive					●	●	

Your study needs	Electronic braille	Audio	PDF, OCR	PDF, Tagged	HTML, Semantic	ePub	Translated Version
Highlighting, note taking, and bookmarking			●	●		●	
Mobile device		●			●	●	
Offline	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Prefer listening		●					
Prefer reading	●		●	●	●	●	●
Print	●		●	●	●	●	●
Text to speech with speed adjustment			●	●	●	●	
Different language							●