

ICT to Support Learners with Dyslexia

Technology to support learners with literacy difficulties such as dyslexia can make a big difference. Using resources provided by CALL Scotland combined with a range of Windows built-in tools, free downloads and commercial software, support technology should be available to everyone!



Text-to-speech

Text-to-speech is a computer voice that speaks text from a document or a website i.e. a text reader. Text-to-speech can support reading by helping learners to process and understand information more easily when it is spoken aloud.

Examples include:

- ✓ WordTalk (free - includes a talking spell checker): www.wordtalk.org.uk
- ✓ Natural Reader (free): www.naturalreaders.com
- ✓ Orato (free): www.eduapps.org (part of MyStudyBar)
- ✓ Find out more on text-to-speech: bit.ly/CALL-Text-to-Speech



Computer Voices

Text-to-speech requires a realistic computer voice. Free computer voices (Heather, Stuart or Ceitidh) with a Scottish accent designed specifically for Scottish schools, are available from: bit.ly/The-Scottish-Voice



Colour Contrast and Highlighting

Changing the colour contrast on a computer screen can help to reduce visual stress, e.g. prevent words from "floating", "reversing" or both.

Examples include:

- ✓ Colour filters include (free): TBar and ssOverlay: www.eduapps.org (part of MyStudyBar)
- ✓ Changes can also be made to Word: Design (or) Page Layout and choose Page Colour.
- ✓ WordTalk includes synchronised colour highlighting with speech - can aid concentration.
- ✓ Some learners benefit from using a combination of colour contrast, highlighting and speech.



Speech Recognition

With Windows Speech Recognition you can speak to your computer to dictate text and give commands to control it. To start Windows Speech Recognition go to:

Start > Control Panel > Ease of Access > Speech Recognition.

Other speech recognition programs include:

- ✓ Dragon NaturallySpeaking
- ✓ Word Q + Speak Q
- ✓ Google Voice Typing (Free - in Google Docs)
- ✓ For more on speech recognition visit: bit.ly/CALL-Speech-Recognition



Word Prediction

Word prediction software predicts words in context as you write (after the first or second keypress). Word prediction can help spelling and grammar accuracy, and increase typing speed.

Word prediction programs include:

- ✓ Penfriend
- ✓ ClaroRead
- ✓ Clicker (with picture prediction)
- ✓ Co:Writer
- ✓ Texthelp Read&Write

