

Assistive Technology – In-Built Assistive Technology Options

Assistive technology can support people with learning difficulties in a variety of ways, and it can come in several different forms; whether it be by specific purpose-built devices, features that are in-built into a general device, or an add-on to a general device.

The assistive technology outlined in this tip sheet are those technologies that are in-built in the device that you are using. The links below provide you with guidance and information on using these technologies published by the makers of the devices.

Assistive Technology for Spelling and Writing

There are many apps and in-built software that can assist people with spelling and writing.

Speech to text software allows a person to speak the word or text required, and the software will type it. As spelling &/or handwriting are no longer barriers to getting thoughts on paper, a person with the use of assistive technology can produce writing that is more comprehensive and has a greater vocabulary.

Device	In-built Accessibility Tools
IOS (iPad, iPhone)	<u>Typing Feedback</u> This feature can give you feedback as you type as well as speak text corrections and word suggestions. <u>Auto-Correction</u> This feature automatically corrects misspelled words as you type. <u>Dictation</u> This allows for text to be entered by speaking instead of being typed in many apps.
Mac	<u>Spelling and Grammar Checking</u> This feature allows spelling to be checked while typing, and mistakes are automatically corrected. <u>Dictation</u> This allows for spoken dictation in any of the same places that typing is necessary.
Microsoft Windows	<u>Dictate</u> This is a speech to text feature that converts spoken words into text anywhere on a PC. Speech Recognition needs to be turned on. To set up a microphone for voice recognition, and to train your computer for your voice click <u>here</u> .
Microsoft 365 (Windows, Mac, iOS and web)	<u>Spelling and Grammar Checking</u> Spelling and grammar can be automatically or manually checked in Microsoft 365 programs.

Device	In-built Accessibility Tools
Chromebooks	<p>Chromebook accessibility features include text-to-speech, speech-to-text, and the ability to customise the display, mouse, and keyboard.</p> <p>Additional information on Chromebook accessibility features can be found on YouTube at Chrome & Chrome OS Accessibility Video Series.</p>
Android	<p>Android devices can be customised using accessibility settings and apps.</p> <p>Features include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Talkback</i> screen reader or <i>Select to Speak</i> speaks text and image content on the screen - Change displays by customising the font and screen display - Interactive voice and switch access to assist with using your device instead of the touchscreen - Audio and on-screen text

Assistive Technology for Reading

Individuals who struggle to read or have a learning disability such as dyslexia can benefit considerably from the use of assistive technology.

Text-to-speech (TTS) software is a popular assistive technology tool that reads aloud digital text to the user. It allows children and adults to focus on comprehending the text instead of struggling to decoding the words. While it does not aid the development of reading skills, it reduces the functional impact of reading difficulties on an individual.

Device	In-built Accessibility Tools
IOS (iPad, iPhone)	<p>SpeakScreen iPhone SpeakScreen iPad</p> <p>This feature allows the user to hear the text they selected or the entire screen.</p> <p>VoiceOver iPhone</p>
Mac	<p>Text to Speech VoiceOver SpeakScreen</p> <p>These features enable the text on the screen to be read aloud.</p> <p>Voice Control</p> <p>This feature allows the user to navigate their Mac using their voice to minimise reading.</p>
Microsoft Windows	<p>Narrator</p> <p>This feature enables the text on the PC screen to be read aloud, including webpages and emails.</p>

Device	In-built Accessibility Tools
Microsoft 365 (Windows, Mac, iOS and web)	<p><u>Immersive Reader</u> This is a tool that increases readability of content in Word, OneNote, Outlook and more.</p> <p><u>Read Aloud</u> <u>Text-to-Speech</u> This feature allows the user to listen to their Word documents.</p>
Chromebooks	<p><u>Select-to-Speak</u> This feature allows the user to select specific content to hear it out loud, in synthesized speech, to aid comprehension.</p>
Android	<p><u>Text-to-Speech</u> <u>TalkBack</u> <u>Select to Speak</u> This feature enables the text on the screen to be read aloud.</p>