



by ReadSpeaker

Recommendation Guidelines

Why use TextAid and which difficulties does it address?

TextAid has many tools which assist people with Dyslexia, ADHD and medical conditions which cause fatigue and concentration difficulties.

General Benefits

Improve comprehension

Being able to listen and see words highlighted reinforces meaning. There's no need to decode individual words. Annotating documents helps understanding of the text.

Increase self-confidence and performance

Removing the need to read means you work more quickly. Being able to have your work proofread reassures you that what is written is what you intended to write and minimises errors.

Reduce fatigue and stress

When writing you must think about content, structuring sentences, finding the right word, punctuating and spelling which is very tiring if you're dyslexic or have an illness which causes fatigue. The tools in TextAid assist with this by: reading for you; suggesting words; checking spelling and formatting your work to make it easier to read.

Gives independence to choose when, where & what to read

Because TextAid is web based you can access your account on any device. Any text can be read, even on a piece of paper or picture. Annotations can be added to aid understanding and you can just listen to the audio without looking at a screen.

Motivate reluctant readers to read more

TextAid does the reading and by removing this barrier to learning it motivates and facilitates understanding.

Benefits of Specific Features

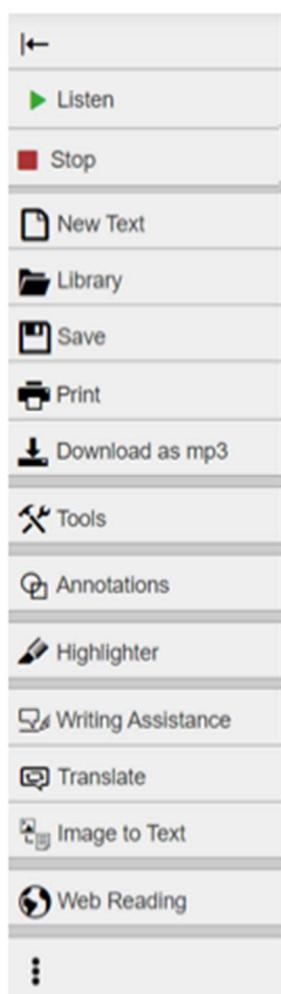
Reading Tools

Text Read Back

A natural sounding voice reads back any text so there's no need to try and decode each individual word. This saves time, reduces fatigue and helps to focus on comprehension.

Text Highlighting

Words and sentences can be highlighted which improves focus and concentration.



Personalised Settings

Voice, highlighting and the text area can be customised making the tools more likely to be used.

Document and OCR Reading

OCR works automatically behind the scenes so there's no need to remember how to make a document accessible. Great for users who have working memory difficulties.

Screen Mask and Reading Ruler

Masking parts of the screen helps readers follow the text so rereading the same line or missing out lines is reduced.

Download Audio Files

Any document can be saved as an audio file. For some, listening while on the move helps learning. And many people find reading from a screen fatiguing so being able to listen away from the screen such as sitting in a comfortable chair or going for a walk is very beneficial.

Web Reading

TextAid offer extensions for most internet browsers which means that text in websites, social media and emails can be read aloud. Users can reduce the worry of making errors when typing and save time by having text read to them quickly.

Word Tools

Word prediction, Spell Check and Word Lookup

When typing anywhere word prediction helps users find the correct spelling and the more it is used the more accurate it is. Spell check shows incorrect spellings and suggests corrections and word look up gives definitions. These tools help users with word finding, word meaning and spelling difficulties.

Dictation

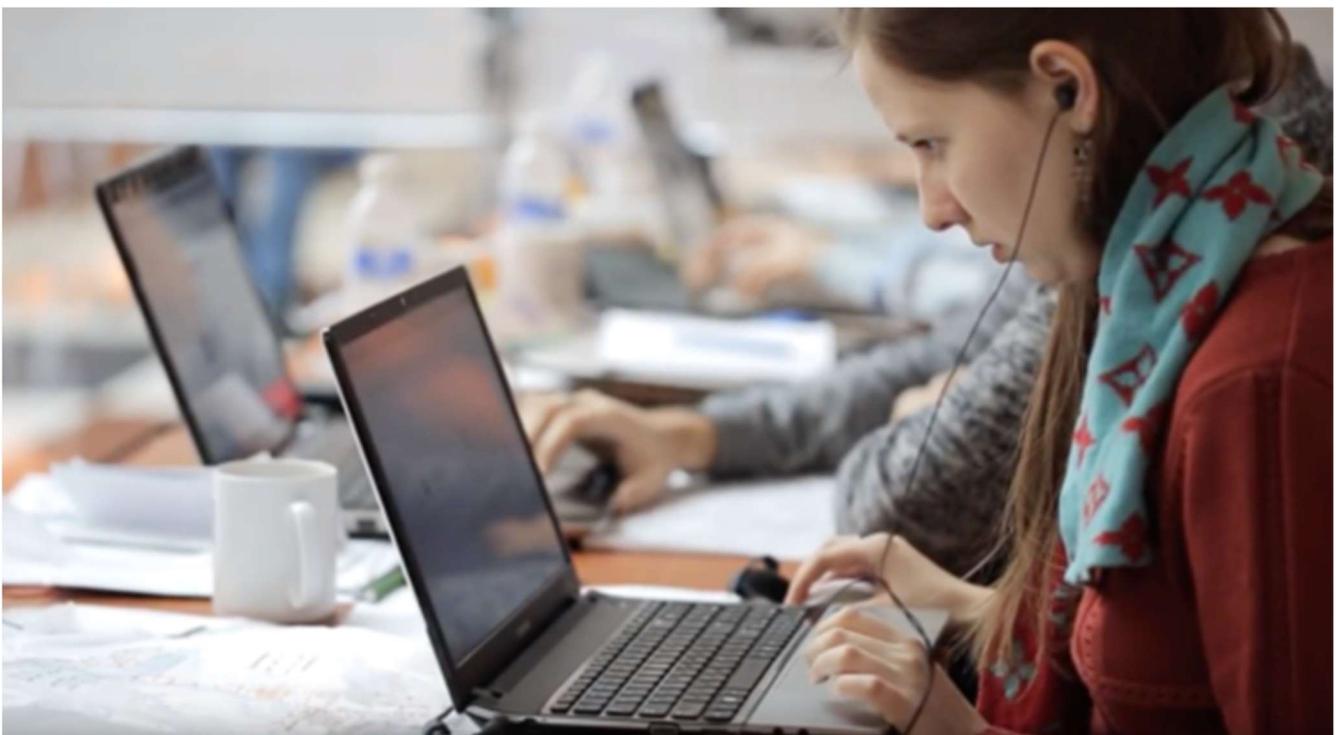
The dictation tool helps users who need to quickly get ideas typed onto the screen but difficulties with spelling and structuring sentences slows them down and adds stress.

Translation

Text can immediately be translated and read aloud in another language which is useful for non-native English speakers or students studying another language. TextAid is the only text-to-speech solution with a built-in Welsh user interface and voice so is a helping hand for anyone who reads more confidently, needs to translate text or read in Welsh.

Read back typing

Helps users who often omit, repeat or use the wrong word. When listening back, spelling and grammatical errors are more easily identified.



Organising Tools

Annotations

By annotating documents with text, notes and free drawing users who see a page of text as impossible to understand can add information to increase comprehension. This tool also allows users to complete forms and worksheets. This reduces stress for anyone who would worry about having to read the information and make sure there are no spelling errors when filling it in.

Highlighter

Text can be highlighted in different colours to help organise the content. This is useful for users who have difficulty in organising text and focussing on key points. It is also useful for learners who understand more effectively when they highlight text using different colours. When revising, main points can be collected so learning is less daunting.

Personal Text Library

Any document that is opened in TextAid is saved into the library meaning that everything is in one place regardless of which device it is accessed. This helps users with organisational skills, working memory difficulties and ADD. It makes access so easy.

Online Access

Because TextAid is online it can be used on any device – a laptop, tablet, Chromebook or phone. It takes very little effort to open and have text read. Users are far more likely to use it because it is with them all the time. The account can be used on two devices at once. Take a photograph of text on a phone and straight away open it on a laptop, have it read and edit the text.



Benefits for Specific Difficulties

Reading

A natural sounding voice reads back any text so there's no need to try and decode each individual word. The reading speed can be altered, and it can pause between words. Any text can be read even in a picture, on a webpage, email and social media. Word and/or sentences can be highlighted to help to follow the text.

There's no need to scan a document to make it accessible, TextAid OCRs documents as they are being opened making listening to text less stressful.

It doesn't matter what device you use if you can access the internet, you can quickly have text read aloud.

Masking parts of the screen helps readers follow the text so rereading the same line or missing out lines is reduced.

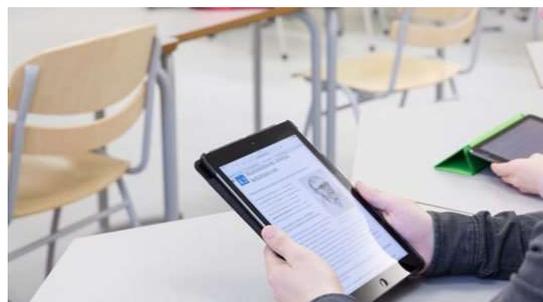
Spelling

When typing anywhere word prediction helps users find the correct spelling and the more it is used the more accurate it is. Hover over suggested words to hear them so you can find the word you need. Spell check shows incorrect spellings but only when you click on the spell check button. This stops the user being distracted by errors while typing.

Comprehension

Definitions and online look up can be quickly accessed by selecting the word. Highlighting helps the user follow the text and improves comprehension. Being able to annotation documents with text, free drawing, highlighting and notes also helps to understand the content. Using the highlighter tool to collect key information also helps learning and understanding.

TextAid can also translate text into another language in just one click to help users who have English as an additional language understand text and also learn how to pronounce words. Welsh is included by default.



Working Memory

Most tools can be accessed in just one click so users don't have to remember complicated processes. Any document that is opened in TextAid is saved into the library meaning that everything is in one place regardless of which device it is accessed on. It makes access so easy.

Concentration

Text highlighting and being able to listen and follow the text at the same time aids concentration. Screen masking helps to focus on just a few words at a time. If a user uses the annotation tool while listening to text being read, they will be able to engage with the document which aids understanding. The dictate button is a quick way of saving ideas without having to think about structuring sentences, punctuating and spelling correctly.

Fatigue

Any document can be saved as an audio file. Many people find reading from a screen fatiguing so being able to listen away from the screen such as sitting in a comfortable chair or going for a walk is very beneficial. The dictate button is a less tiring way of getting thoughts onto your computer. Because TextAid can be accessed on any device, it requires very little effort to open your TextAid account and access all the reading and writing tools.

If you would like a demo license, training or have any questions contact Mary.



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