

Digital Tool - NaturalReader

How to use NaturalReader in teaching adults with
learning difficulties



GUIDE

FACILITATING TRAINING OF ADULTS
WITH **LEARNING DIFFICULTIES** FOR
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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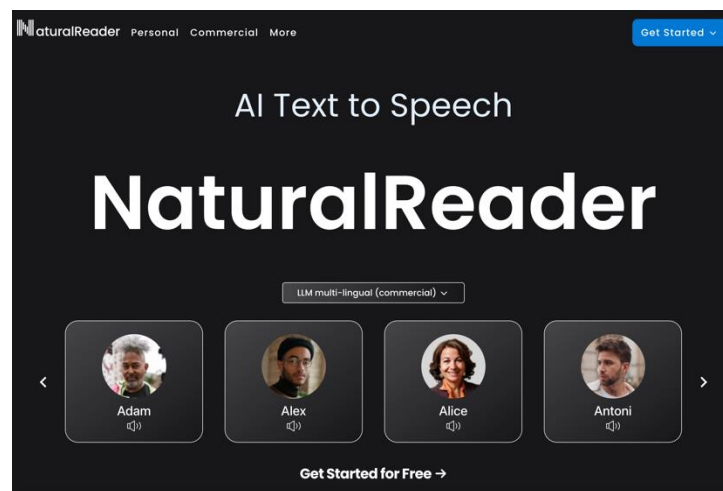


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NaturalReader

Overview

NaturalReader is a multi purpose text to speech software to convert written text into natural sounding speech. It supports a lot of document formats – you name it, from Word to PDFs, from web pages to... even custom formats you can create. Consisting of realistic voice options, adjustable reading speeds and the ability to highlight text while it's read out loud it has features such as that. NaturalReader is perfect for individuals with reading challenges, as well as language learners and anyone who learns better when they hear their text instead of seeing it.



Learning Objectives

Our main goal with NaturalReader is to enhance the reading comprehension and accessibility of the users by provision of an audio learning experience. The tool is aimed to support individuals with difficulties in reading (like dyslexia) and help language learners improve pronunciation as well as comprehension of written text by converting written text into clear, natural sound. The goal is for NaturalReader to enable users to become better equipped at dealing with written content and to ultimately become better informed and promote the learning of other users.

Skills Developed

By using NaturalReader, learners with learning disabilities (LD) can develop or enhance the following skills and knowledge areas:

- **Reading Comprehension:** Tapping into the auditory format makes it easier for learners to understand and retain information, thereby helping them to grasp complex but challenging texts to read visually.
- **Listening Skills:** For users, resources exist to help boost their capacity to listen and follow along with spoken words, helping their auditory processing and auditory comprehension.
- **Vocabulary Development:** The words are pronounced correctly, and helping learners build vocabulary and help learners recognize and understand new terms in context.
- **Fluency:** However, regular exposure to fluent reading through the tool may help improve learners' reading fluency and so also their confidence in reading aloud.
- **Multimodal Learning:** NaturalReader advocates the integration of multimodality into learning, allowing users to study text visually as well as audibly, boosting learning results.
- **Independence and Self-Advocacy:** By giving learners with LD the opportunity to use a tool that will allow them to access text themselves and developing self advocacy skills, learners with LD can become self advocates and in control of their learning.
- **Critical Thinking:** If learners read and listen to different texts using the auditory means, then they can under critical thinking skills by doing these analysis and synthesis properly.

Target Group

NaturalReader is especially created for the adult with learning impairments, that includes dyslexia, dyscalculia and other related issues. Offering to this demographic the tool not only serves to enhance reading comprehension and accessibility but

helps users to engage with written content in a more effective and confident way. Designed to fill in the gaps found in products directly aimed at middle school and high school learners, these features are tailored to adapt to the requirements of typical adult learners.

Key features

- Accessibility
 - NaturalReader converts text into natural sounding speech to increase accessibility for people with learning difficulties. It helps to add a great deal to the education for the dyslexic or if they cannot read for any other reason, so they can take in information more easily, and are able to understand it better.
- Multimedia elements
 - But, the tool also supports many different multimedia formats so that users can play with many kind of content, such as PDF, word documents or web pages. And they provide this versatility to the learner so they can engage with whatever kind of materials, that fit their interests and their needs.
- Interactivity
 - It features interactive features like text highlighting so users can follow along as text is read aloud, and adjustable reading speeds.
- Personalization
 - The software is customizable: you can select the voice you want to read, the speed at which you want the software read, as well as what color to set as your background. Users thus get to personalize their experience of the platform to their liking and thus drive comfort and efficiency in their learning path.

Instructions/ Integration

Instructions:

1. Download and Install:

- o Visit the NaturalReader website, or go to the Google Play Store or Apple App Store.
- o Install the NaturalReader app on your device and then download it to it.

2. Open the App:

- o From your device's home screen, started the NaturalReader app.

3. Create an Account (if necessary):

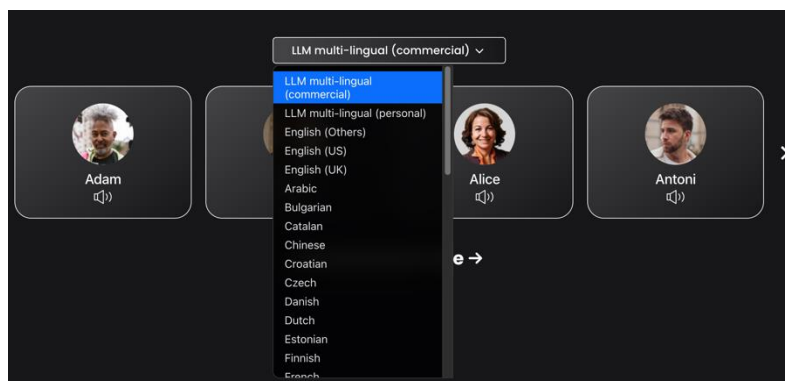
- o If requested, provide (or login) with a new account; otherwise, log in with an existing one.
- o Enter various required information and make your selections.

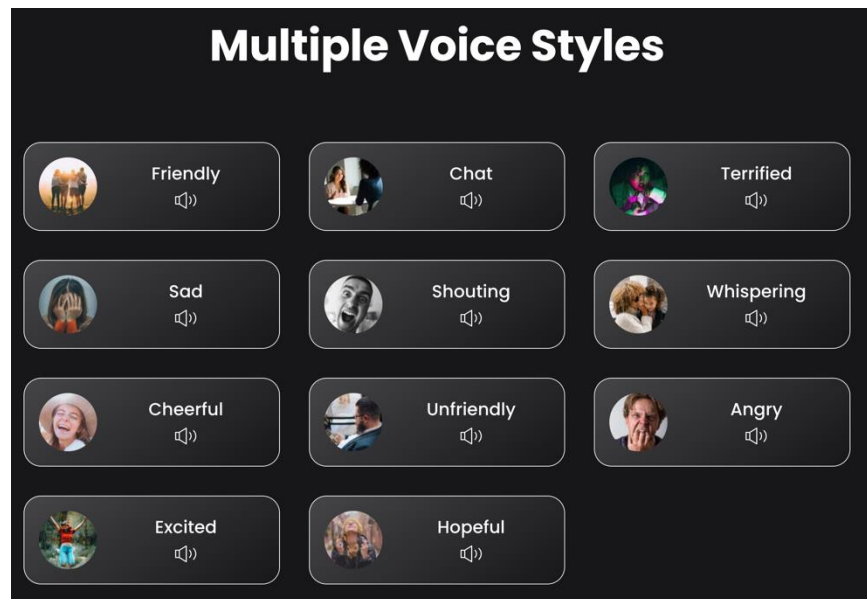
4. Import or Paste Text:

- o To read text, you can:
- o Import Documents: To import files from your device into iDocsReview, click on the "Import" or "Upload" button. Supported files are PDF, word, etc.
- o Copy and Paste: Paste the text you want to read into the text box of the app, then open the text you want to read, and copy it.

5. Select a Voice:

- o Click the voice settings option to choose from the available text to speech voices.
- o You can pitch up and pitch down the voice as you wish.





9. Start Reading:

- But that's another story. Click the "Play" button to start reading the text aloud.
- In the app, words will be highlighted as they are spoken to help you follow along.

10. Pause and Resume:

- Click "Pause" to stop reading momentarily. To continue, just click "Play" again.

11. **Navigate the Text:** Then use the scrollbar or tap in the section names to skip to the different sections.

12. **Adjust Settings:** Extra settings for background color, font size and other accessible features can enrich your reading.

Save or Export Audio (if needed): If you'd like to save the audio output then look for the option to export or save the file to your preferred audio format.

Close the App: When you close the app, you're done.

If you follow this, you can make the best use of NaturalReader to enjoy reading and also extend your learning process in the best way.

Integration:

NaturalReader will run seamlessly in many of the more educational and professional workplaces to allow easy accessibility and learning for those with

learning difficulties. NaturalReader supports multiple document formats and is also compatible with a variety of platforms (such as web browsers, educational software, etc.) to provide the user an easy way to access written content in different contexts. Additionally, it creates the capacity to function in combination with different digital tools, assisting users to methodically mix handheld learning with images for creating an extra diverse and vivid method of reading.

Assessment and feedback

NaturalReader does not concentrate a great deal on formal assessment but rather on improving the reading experience. However, it offers several methods to support learner progress and provide feedback:

- **Progress Tracking:** Features tracking how much content learners use to read or listen while using the tool will enable the learners to monitor their reading habits. In addition, this allows them to see their engagement levels and what may need some more emphasis.
- **Highlighting Text:** Realtime word highlighting highlights words being read aloud as text, so learners can see a word spoken aligned with that same word on the page. This visual feedback helps one to remember to what he or she is viewing.
- **Adjustable Reading Speed:** This gives learners the chance to control the speed they read at so as to be able know if they understood what was read. Challenging texts can utilize slower speeds; faster indicate a greater understanding.
- **Listening Replays:** Users can restart sections. This makes it a method for learners to self assess their understanding by testing to see how easily they can follow along when they relisten.
- **User Feedback:** Perhaps the app will include facilities through which learners can feed back their experience – i.e. they can rate their experience using a specific voice, setting, or type of content.

By altering this feedback, we can have improved interactions with the tool in the future. In that respect NaturalReader doesn't offer formal assessments, but its

features do help learners monitor their progress and generate immediate feedback through interactive, engaging ways for effective learning.

Technical requirements

NaturalReader Technical Requirements

- Supported Devices:
 - Windows PCs: It works on desktops or laptop with compatible operating system.
 - Mac: Opencv for mac running mac os.
 - Mobile Devices: App is available on iOS smartphones and tablets (iPhone, iPad) and Android smartphones and tablets.
- Operating Systems:
 - Windows: Windows 10 or later.
 - Mac: Version macOS 10.12 (Sierra) and newer.
 - iOS: For iPhone and iPad, iOS 11.0 or later.
 - Android: You need Android 5.0 (Lollipop), or later.
- Internet Connectivity:
 - We recommend that you have a stable internet connection to download the app, use the online functions and import content that you have from the web. The app might also provide offline abilities for previously downloaded content, but that is all.
- Storage Requirements:
 - Just how much storage is required will depend on the device and the amount of content you are accessing.
 - Additional Requirements:
 - Audio Output: Text-to-speech output clearly heard by a working speaker or headphones.
 - Software Updates: It may require regular updates to perform or access latest features. To reduce any surprises you should check that your operating systems and the NaturalReader app are up to date.

- Of course, all that meeting technical requirements, users can use NaturalReader to enhance the experience of reading and support their learning needs.

Useful resources

Here are three useful resources to support further learning on text-to-speech technology and its applications for individuals with learning disabilities:

1. **NaturalReader Resource Center:**

NaturalReader Resource Center provides users with user guides, learning tips, fact sheets for easy and productive use and articles on assistive technology. This resource provides users of NaturalReader with tips to get the most out of NaturalReader and understand its more features.

2. **Learning Disabilities Association of America (LDA): [LDA website](#)**

In addition to research articles, educational materials and support networks for individuals with learning disabilities and their families, the LDA website also offers a wealth of information about learning disabilities.

3. **Understood.org:**

Parents, educators and people with learning disabilities will appreciate the wealth of information and clarity provided on this resource. It features articles, expert advice and practical tools for learning challenges and supporting effective strategies.

GUIDE: Facilitating Training of Adults with Learning Difficulties for Professional Development



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