"For people without disabilities, technology makes things convenient. For people with disabilities, technology makes things possible." - Judith Huemann

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Text version with references: https://tinyurl.com/WhereIsAT
Evaluate Sessions and Win!

- Navigate to specific session to evaluate
- Select “Evaluate Session” on session details screen
- Complete session evaluation*

*Each session evaluation completed (limited to one per session) = one contest entry

**Five (5) $25 gift cards** will be awarded
Must submit evals using the OLC conference website, beta platform mobile app
Full Disclosure
Accessibility is a civil right. This is personal for me.

• B.A. Special Education
• M. Ed Instructional Technology
• Mother of two. One has Autism and has personally benefitted from the use of Assistive Technology.
What is an Assistive Technology Device?

Assistive technology device – “... any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities” (29 U.S.C. Sec 2202(2)).
Levels of Assistive Technology

No tech (no technology)
Example: Teaching Strategies

Low Tech: typically devices and tools without a power source
Example: Pencil Grip

Mid Tech: require a power source like batteries, increase in cost/training implementation

High Tech: Most sophisticated AT devices that using require electronic power.
Example: computers, tablets, text to speech, motorized wheelchairs

https://tinyurl.com/y24k8mvh
## Examples of Assistive Technology Devices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No-tech AT</th>
<th>Low-tech AT</th>
<th>Mid-tech AT</th>
<th>High-tech AT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Mnemonics (Please excuse my dear Aunt Sally for PEDMAS: Parenthesis, Exponents, Multiple &amp; Division, Addition &amp; Subtraction)</td>
<td>• Pencil grips</td>
<td>• Calculators</td>
<td>• Text-to-speech</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Graphic organizers</td>
<td>• Raised lined paper</td>
<td>• Audio recorder</td>
<td>• Smartphone or tablet and their apps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Highlighter tape</td>
<td>• Switches</td>
<td>• Digital textbooks (supported text)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Large print text</td>
<td>• Books on tape</td>
<td>• Power wheelchairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Grabbers</td>
<td>• Talking spell checkers or dictionaries</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
It is important to know that the use of Assistive Technology devices is individualized. What works for one person, may not work for another.

So, how do you know where to start looking for AT resources? Thanks to The Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (P.L. 105-394), every state in the U.S.A. has Assistive Technology libraries and service offices.

The law provides funding for states regarding assistive technology, created permanent technology-related assistance programs in each state and supported loan programs for devices.

Find your state's AT office/library information

Match up AT Tech tool

Video link
Many electronic devices have built in accessibility/custom features in their products.

Check out the features of your electronic device and set your settings to meet your personal preference. This will help you look and receive content in a way that works for you.

Accessibility settings of Apple products

Accessibility settings for Windows Devices

Accessibility settings of Android devices

https://tinyurl.com/ATFeatures
Have a discussion about the Accessibility features of electronic devices.

Many electronic devices have built-in accessibility features in their products. As such, banning the use of such electronic devices can be very problematic for students.

"One in three students with disabilities do not have positive responses to how their institution supports their need for accessible content and/or technology accommodations."- EDUCAUSE Student Tech Report 2020

"Allowing only students who have documented disabilities the use of digital devices can draw unwanted attention from their peers, effectively identifying them as having a learning need they are entitled to keep private."- EDUCAUSE ECAR 2018 report
Free Captioning options
Use Automatic Captions/Closed Captions

• Video captions are useful for all students and essential for some students. Research has shown that using captions with videos can make students better readers, however, for students who are deaf, captioning is essential for understanding content.

[Video Link]
Benefits of Captions

A recent study* also found that 42% of students use Closed Captions (CC) to maintain focus.

The same study also found test scores increased by 3% with CC.

Test scores increased by 8% with interactive transcripts.

*Source: https://tinyurl.com/y4nyck3h
Google Slides and PowerPoint Presentation software allows for automatic captions.

You can turn these captions on when you present a presentation. If you use a software that lets you record your screen, the captions will also show up on the recording.

In Google Slides, click on present. Then click on the CC icon to have automatic captions enabled. (Captions available in English only)

In PowerPoint, on the Slide Show ribbon tab, select Subtitle Settings.

To have subtitles always start up when a Slide Show presentation starts, from the ribbon you can navigate to Slide Show > Always Use Subtitles to turn this feature on for all presentations.

Available in over 60 languages!
Speaking of captioning for presentations....

If you use PowerPoint, Microsoft has released a new feature called PowerPoint Live and is now available globally.

With PowerPoint Live your students/audience can get the presentation as you are presenting live on their device. They can select what language they want the captions to be in, and can also provide feedback to you while you present.
PowerPoint Live works on any Internet Enabled Device. To use PowerPoint live, you must be in your Office 365 account.

Nothing to install!
Subtitles are available in 60 languages!
If you use an online video you have to rely on the captions that come with the video. Sometimes, these video captions from online videos are good and other times they are awful. The problem with online videos is that, unless you were the person who uploaded the video to the online platform (like Youtube), you cannot edit the captions.

With Kapwing's Subtitle feature, you can take any video (even if you aren't the one who created it) and add/edit any of the captions. [Kapwing demo](https://kapwing.com/)

**Caption online videos with the **Kapwing App.**

1. **Click on the auto generate button.**
2. **Pick a language.**
3. **Once the captions are generated, you can correct any errors that may exist in the transcription.**
4. **In addition, you can pick the size, color and font of the captions.**
5. **Once you have your captions the way you want, you simply click on the create button.**
Comic by Jorge Cham Twitter handle: @phdcomics
Text to Speech tools
# The Advantages of Text-To-Speech

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Improves literacy skills</th>
<th>Makes editing and proofreading easy</th>
<th>Enhances pronunciation and speech skills</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enables listening to the news while communicating</td>
<td>Relieves eye strain</td>
<td>Improves comprehension and recall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provides the freedom to choose how to consume content</td>
<td>Increase accessibility for people with vision impairments and learning disabilities</td>
<td>Enables learning of a new language without a tutor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Source](#)
Screen readers are used by people who are vision impaired to read and understand digital content. Many electronic devices have built in readers so there nothing to install.

The screen reader for Mac and Apple products is called **VoiceOver**.

For PCs, (Windows), the built in screen reader is **Windows Narrator**. Also available for PCs: **NVDA** is a free screen reader that can be download to your computer.

For Android products, the built in screen reader is **TalkBack**.

For Google Chromebooks the built in screen reader is **ChromeVox**.
**Immersive Reader**

"The Microsoft Immersive Reader is a free tool, built into Word, OneNote, Outlook, Office Lens, Microsoft Teams, Forms, Flipgrid, Minecraft Education Edition and the Edge browser, that implement proven techniques to improve reading and writing for people regardless of their age or ability." - All about Immersive Reader

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Where is it available?</th>
<th>OneNote</th>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Outlook</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Online</td>
<td>Desktop</td>
<td>Windows 10</td>
<td>iPad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Read Aloud</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spacing and Font Size</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syllables</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parts of Speech</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dictate</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Line Focus</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picture Dictionary</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Translation</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math Equation support</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Try out Immersive Reader](#)
Immersive Reader is not a direct substitution for a screen reader, but it is an empowering tool for many students.

1) Enhanced dictation: Improves authoring text
2) Focus mode: Sustains attention and improves reading speed
3) Immersive Reading: Improves comprehension and sustains attention
4) Font spacing and short lines: Improve reading speed by addressing "visual crowding"
5) Parts of speech: Supports instruction and improves writing quality
6) Syllabification: Improves word recognition
7) Read Aloud Math: Benefits students who need to see and hear equations out loud.
8) Real-time translation: Helps dyslexic non-native speakers (ELL in the United States) with reading

-Source: "All about the Immersive Reader"
Immersive Reader is also available on many Educational Technology tools and apps!
Create mp3/ audio files of online websites

Podcastle is a chrome extension. Once you install the extension, it converts online articles to audio files. The audio files can be shared via download, web embed or as a url link.

Podcastle is free to use. Only works on Google Chrome.

**Step 1:** Open any article and find podcastle in your extensions

**Step 2:** Click on Convert to podcast

**Step 3:** Enjoy listening to the podcast 🎧
Free Speech to Text Options
Use the dictation tool in Microsoft Office 365 Suite, or the Voice tool in Google Docs

Both Microsoft Word and Google docs have a dictation tool. The dictation tool allows you to speak aloud and your words will be automatically transcribed on your document. You may have to change a few words on the final product, but both are fairly accurate.

Video link
Two tools you can use for creating transcripts.

Web Captioner: Web Captioner is a web-based tool that allows you to create instant captions/transcripts by simply using a mic. Nothing to install. You can choose the language you want the transcript to be in and you can save any transcript as a text file or word file.

You can even have another tab opened in your browser and the captioning will still be going on!

You could also use a tool called Dictate.io to create your descriptive transcript.
Free tools to remove distractions from websites
A robust browser extension you can try is called HelperBird

Helper Bird is a browser extension that is available for Edge, Firefox and Chrome browsers.
Helper Bird was created by Robert James, who is dyslexic and wanted to make a tool to help others study online without struggles.
This extension can be used by anyone. Helper Bird is free to download and install and offers free and premium tools. You get a huge amount of tools available on the free plan, but when you first download the extension, you are granted 7 days of a pro account so you can check out all the features and tools.

To see how to use all the features of Helper Bird, check out this Wakelet collection.
Free tools that make websites easier to read

Sometimes we find sites that have relevant information/content on them, but those same pages also contain ads, unrelated videos, or pictures. There are several free tools that make websites easier to read without the clutter.

1) **Safari Reader**: This is a built-in option for the Safari web browser on Macs and iOS devices (iPhones, iPads), allows students to remove ads and visual clutter on a page.

2) Chrome Browser: The Chrome Browser has several free extensions you can use to remove the visual clutter. Some of these extensions include [Mercury Reader](#), [JustRead](#) and [Easy Reader](#).

3) **Firefox Reader View**: If your students use Firefox, the browser comes with a simple Reader View button, that removes all the "extras"

4) **Microsoft Edge**: Microsoft Edge also comes with a built in reading view. The new Edge browser also comes with [Immersive Reader](#) which will read the websites aloud, while also removing the clutter.
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