Text-to-Speech: A Great Classroom Option!

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Benefits of text to speech:
- students can work at their own pace
- students gain independence
- fewer staff members are needed to administer accommodations

Barriers to using Text-to-Speech
- students don't know how to use it
- there is limited time to build fluency
- by middle school, they resist using
- students comment on the mechanical sounding voice
Overview

Kurzweil is the only program that can be used for MSAs and HSAs.

Students can use Natural Reader at home.

Natural Reader and Word Q dialogue boxes can be used on any electronic reading material.

You only get graphics on Kurzweil by scanning the material.

Natural Reader and Word Q are easier to use on the fly without a lot of preparation.

If you only plan to use one software, it should be Kurzweil.

Why use Kurzweil?

- To help students gain independence using Text-to-Speech reading accommodations, especially students who struggle with decoding and those who are auditory learners.
  - Assignments
  - Tests
  - Websites
  - Taking notes

But how?

Let's see a quick video showing how to read text in Kurzweil that you can also access from HIAT.

- Teach and use Kurzweil BEFORE the test
- Open Kurzweil before opening your document.
- Find the Kurzweil icon in Applications
- Sign in using your name
- Close the “Tips” dialog box
- Select open
- Find the file you want

The Kurzweil Reading Toolbar

- To read text, Click on the green “Read” arrow icon to start and stop reading
- You can change the presentation style using:
  - Voice: the best are VW Paul, Kate or Julie
  - Reading speed (WPM)
  - Pacing (continuous, self-paced, word-by-word)
  - Pausing or continuing
  - Page selection
  - Turning pages manually
Now let’s try another doc

- Select “open”
- Students(s)
- Copyrighted text
- Great Gilly-Hopkins
- Ch. 1

- In this file, you have to change pages manually
  Use the red [Forward] button or insert the page #

WRITING IN KURZWEIL

Let’s see a quick video showing how to write in Kurzweil that you can also access from HIAT.

WORD PREDICTION

A great addition for struggling writers!

Using Speech Bubbles in Kurzweil

They can be used as notes within the Kurzweil text

They can be used as comprehension questions.

Students can pause and make predictions

Let’s see a quick tutorial from the HIAT website:

Naturalreader

Introduction

Students can download a free version at www.naturalreaders.com/download.htm

- You can capture text from the internet without the ad
- You can use Natural Reader to help with writing.
- Can be used with Bookshare.org
**WordQ**

- Young writers often rush through writing assignments.
- Struggling writers resist editing their work.
- WordQ can encourage students to listen critically when they write and edit.
- Below are some links to Quick Guides from the HIAT web page.
  - Quick Guide
  - Word Q Students

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**Play and Learn!**

Pick a station and practice:

- Kurzweil
- Naturalreader
- WordQ

Think of a way you can use text to speech in your curriculum and make materials for your class.