

Assistive Technology for Reading and Writing

Reading Tools

Bookshare

This is an online library of e-books that includes textbooks and leisure materials. Free subscriptions for U.S. students with qualifying disabilities that affect reading. Books out of copyright are available to the public, while copyrighted digital books are only available for download to subscribers.

- Free subscription for U.S. students with qualifying disabilities
- Free text reader can be downloaded by subscribers.
 - Bookshare
 - www.bookshare.org

Classmate Reader

Portable text reader that allows users to listen to audio of the book while the text appears and is highlighted on the screen.

- Built –in talking dictionary
- Add bookmark
- Voice notes
- Change appearance – color, size, and spacing of text
 - Don Johnston Inc, \$499
 - www.donjohnston.com (website), 1-800-999-4660 (phone)



D-Speech

Free text reading software that also converts text to audio. Works together with Microsoft's speech recognition (see Microsoft Speech Recognition below). Can also be used as a talking word processor.

- D-Speech by Dimio
- <http://www.softpedia.com/get/Office-tools/Other-Office-Tools/DSpeech.shtml>

Free Natural Reader

Free text reading software that will read most documents, email, and web pages.

- Reads text in reading window
- Miniboard to read text in other applications
 - Microsoft voices
 - NaturalSoft
 - www.naturalreaders.com

Merriam-Webster Speaking Dictionary and Thesaurus

Speaking electronic dictionary and thesaurus that has over 300,000 definitions.

- View synonyms, antonyms, and related words



- Create word study lists
- Built-in grammar guide
 - Franklin, \$79.99
 - www.franklin.com (website), 1-800-266-5626 (phone)

Recordings for the Blind & Dyslexic

This organization offers free audio books in various formats to students with qualifying disabilities. Titles available in every subject area and grade level, RFB&D's digitally recorded audio textbooks help students challenged by the printed page.

- Recordings for the Blind & Dyslexic
- www.rfbd.org (website), 1-800-221-4792 (phone)

Talking Dictionary/Spell Checker

Portable, talking dictionary that has over 40,000 words with definitions.

- Speaks letters, words and definitions
- Create personal vocabulary lists
- Handwriting guide
- Homophone guide (to, two, too)
 - Franklin, \$49.95
 - www.franklin.com (website), 1-800-266-5626 (phone)

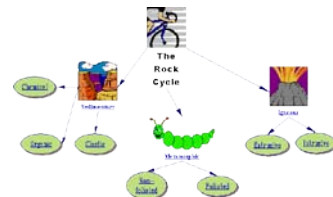


Writing Tools

Inspiration

A mind mapping program that can help with organizing ideas, planning, studying, etc., very similar to Mindomo.

- www.inspiration.com
- Cost \$70, Windows/Mac



Livescribe Pen

The smartpen records audio and links it to what you write.

- 2 GB 200 hours, 4 GB 400 hours of recording time
- Desktop software for reviewing and organizing notes
- Simple and scientific calculators embedded
- MAC OSX, XP, Vista, and Windows 7
 - Livescribe, Inc, \$170 - \$200
 - www.livescribe.com, 1-877-727-4239 (phone)



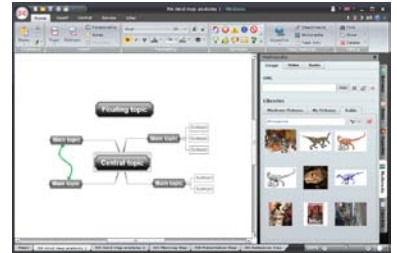
Microsoft Speech Recognition in VISTA and Windows 7

This is a free speech recognition program that comes with your Windows VISTA or Windows 7 operating system software. To use it, go to the Control Panel and click on the Speech Recognition icon. Speech recognition can be used to write reports, emails, letters, and to perform other writing tasks.

Mindomo

Free web-based tool for creating and sharing mind maps. Mind maps can help with organizing ideas for school and work, planning a project, solving problems, and setting priorities.

- Register for a free account where you can save 7 private maps.
- Full version \$6/month subscription, unlimited maps, work offline
 - Mindomo
 - www.mindomo.com



Spell Catcher

Spell catcher can help speed up the writing process by giving you spelling suggestions for words you are typing.

- Works in any application, e-mail, letters and documents, instant messages, and web browsers.
- Has a thesaurus and dictionary.
- Will find misspelled words, improper capitalization, and double word errors.
- Mac and PC compatible
 - Rainmaker Research, Inc., \$29 – \$39, free 15 day trial
 - www.rainmakerinc.com,