

## Assistive Technology Training Online

University at Buffalo - The State University of New York  
USDE# H324M980014  
<http://at-training.com>



## SOFTWARE DEMOS FOR READING

In addition to dedicated talking word processors that read their own files as well as copied text, there are other "readers" available. As students reading needs expand and as they work in multiple programs, including web browsers and e-mail, we need to look at other options.

## TEXT-TO-SPEECH SOFTWARE DOWNLOADS

Text Readers are software programs that read all the text in any given document or application and often include other assistive features such as word prediction and spell check. Those with a reading disability, but with adequate vision most often use them.

### **Adobe Acrobat eBook Reader**

<http://www.adobe.com/products/ebookreader/register.html>

Download this free reader to bring text-to-speech to an eBook or any adobe file.

### **Doc-Reader** <http://www.premier-programming.com>

Premier Programming Solutions

The Doc-Reader is a small application that converts normal electronic documents into MP3 files. The Doc-Reader has a built in AT&T Speech engine that will read and record a file in the background while you are using your computer. Company offers free copies of Scan and Read Lite to schools around the world.

OS Windows 95 and higher .

### **Elan TTS** <http://www.elantts.com/>

Demo of the Text-To-Speech program Elan TTS for Windows 95/98/NT. The TTS program support English UK, English US, French, German, Spanish, Russian and Brazilian. OS Windows 95/98/NT

**Help Read** <http://helpread.net/>

This free program for PC's reads and highlights word by word any text on the screen.

**JTS Reader** <http://www.islandnet.com/~tslemko/>

JTS Microcomputing Ltd.

JTS Reader is an US English Text-To-Speech program for Windows. Copy the text of your documents to the Windows Clipboard and listen to JTS Reader.

OS Windows 3.1/95/98; License Shareware (you can try it for free during 60 days, after this period you have to pay \$21)

**Microsoft Reader 2.0** <http://www.microsoft.com/reader/default.asp>

Download the free software to read eBooks and add text to speech and other features to the books (dictionaries, bookmarks, etc). You can also create your own eBooks from any Word file.

**ReadPlease 2000** <http://www.readplease.com/>

MoneyTree Software Company

ReadPlease is an English speaking Text-To-Speech program for Windows 95/98/NT. ReadPlease will read any text file from the internet including web pages and e-mail.

OS Windows 95 and higher; License FREE

**Speak Lite** <http://www.shadisoft.com/speaklite/index.shtml>

ShadiSoft

SpeakLite uses Microsoft Agent animated characters to read you text. You can read documents, e-mail, web pages, or any text in the clipboard.

OS Windows 95/98; Download free demo

**TextAssist** <http://www.textassist.com/>

MindMaker, Inc.

TextAssist is an easy-to-use application that converts text into speech. You can use it to read e-mail messages and text documents.

**WordTalk2** <http://www.islandnet.com/jts/wordtalk.htm>

JTS Microcomputing Ltd.

WordTalk2 (formerly Listen 95) is a Multi-Language Text-To-Speech program for Windows 95/98/NT. Simply copy your text to the clipboard and listen. This program is also a self-contained talking word processor.

OS Windows 95/98/NT

30 day demo at: WordTalk.zip.

**WYNN 3.0** <http://www.freedomscientific.com/wynn/demo.asp>

Freedom Scientific

Used with a standard computer, WYNN lets you open a file and hear it read aloud or scan in a page using a flatbed scanner, and read that aloud.

## **SCREEN READERS**

Screen readers read ALL the text elements on the screen, including menu bars, buttons and dialogue boxes and may include screen magnification features. They provide access to program navigation and written text for students with visual impairments. Reading text aloud benefits anyone having difficulty reading information on the screen or for whom simultaneously hearing and reading text aids comprehension. Any the reading programs can also assist reading speed. Features within programs vary and should be investigated for each user

**JAWS** [http://www.freedomscientific.com/fs\\_downloads/jaws.asp](http://www.freedomscientific.com/fs_downloads/jaws.asp)

Freedom Scientific

JAWS provides a way for visually impaired computer users to access a wide variety

of information and education related applications: browse the web, read or write e-mail messages, re-calculate spread sheets or access information in a data base.

PS Windows

**ZoomText Xtra Level 2** <http://www.aisquared.com/>

AISquared

This program combines a screen reader with enlarged text.

OS Windows 95/98/2000/XP