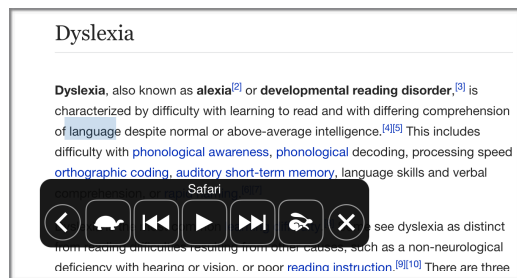


Entering the World of Accessibility — Supports for Reading and Writing



The iPad has been changing the game of portable technology for the individual with learning disabilities, with a combination of accessibility features and applications that are making it easier to interact with text. Now Android devices are joining in the game and are starting to provide more app options for learning differences. Below are a few apps and features that I have used and have proven useful, but there are MANY more apps for accomplishing the same tasks. New apps come out and change on a daily basis and prices are constantly changing!



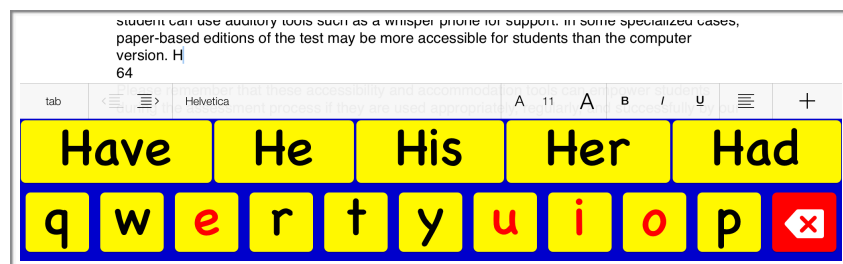
Accessibility Features in iPad and iOS

Speak Selection —

Recently, iOS, iPad's operating system, introduced powerful new built-in feature called **Speak Selection** and **Speak Screen**. When turned on in the Settings, these features can allow the student to highlight any text on the iPad (e.g. in books, internet, email), select “speak” and hear the selection read out loud.

Word Prediction Keyboard —

iPads now have integrated word prediction keyboards and allow for even more supportive and adaptive add-on keyboards to help with spelling. Pair the word prediction with text-to-speech of Speak Selection or Speak Screen. Adaptive keyboards seen on the next page can be added on for additional support like the keyboard below.



Siri Dictation —

Siri speech dictation is available anywhere text needs to be entered on the iPad. With a simple button push to start and stop the dictation, and with surprisingly accurate results, this can be a strong support for struggling writers. Siri works only on iPad 3rd generation and later models and with a wireless internet connection.



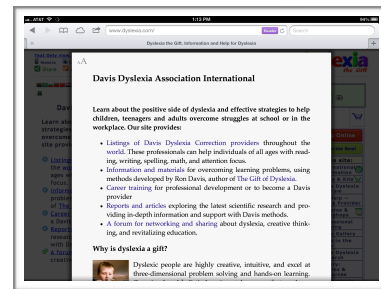
“Guided Learning” Features -- iOS This is a built-in operating system feature that locks a student into one app until the parent or teacher enters a code. By circling areas of the screen, the adult disables buttons and any features they would like to restrict.

Reader in Safari -- iOS In Safari, iPad’s web browser, there is a “Reader” function that helps de-clutter busy web pages and allow the reader to focus in on just the material to be read, as well as enlarge the text and use the “Speak Selection” feature to help with supported reading and highlighting.

From this...



To This...



Android Built-In Support:

Accessibility Features -- Talkback Support -- It can sometimes “over-read” and/or be difficult to control with altered finger gestures, so it may be too much for some individuals.

Word Prediction Keyboard -- Many Android versions have built-in simple word completion or prediction and add-on keyboards available, see below.

Dictation -- Dictation features are built-in to many versions of Android and features vary.

Writing Apps and Features

Text-to-Speech and Word Prediction Keyboard Extensions

Keedogo Plus -- 4.99 -- iOS Smart word prediction and dynamic keyboards that work anywhere that text needs to be entered on the iPad.

Keeble -- 14.99 -- iOS The same wonderful word prediction as Keedogo Plus but with immediate text-to-speech feedback for students who need maximal support.

Ginger -- Free -- iOS and Android An add-on keyboard with grammar correction as well as help with spelling and writing conventions. Free for most features within the app.

Texthelp Keyboard -- 30-day free trial, then \$19.99 -- iOS and Android

The keyboard allows the user to form sentences without lifting their finger. The unique prediction engine can help users with dyslexia or motor skills impairments or those who are learning the English language to ensure the sentences they type are grammatically and syntactically correct.

Text-to-Speech and Word Prediction Apps

Co:Writer -- \$19.99 -- **iOS** Great word predictor for spelling support or **Co:Writer Universal**, which requires a yearly subscription (\$89.00), works on iPad, Mac, PC and Google Chromebooks and syncs settings between all devices and documents between Google Apps and the iPad.

iWordQ -- \$24.99 -- **iOS** A strong word prediction app with “flexible” spelling options for struggling spellers.

ClickerDocs -- \$30.99 -- **iOS** Includes option for word prediction or “Word Banks” for more support.

AppWriter -- \$39.99 -- **Android and iOS**

A great text-to-speech and word prediction app that reads your text and predictions out loud and has a supportive spelling option that will help correct errors; also has OCR or scanning in the iOS version.



iReadWrite -- \$19.99 -- **Android and iOS** Word prediction, multiple visual settings, and picture support for some words in the dictionary.

Speech Recognition Apps

***The 3rd Generation iPad and newer models and many Android devices include speech recognition to use for almost any app or task!!**

If you have an iPad 1 or 2, look at these options:

Paperport -- Free -- Great for iPad 1 and 2

A word processing and PDF annotation tool that has integrated the use of Dragon speech recognition into the writing tool. Also has an audio recording function for taking notes, highlighting and bookmarking tools. Great for iPad 1 and 2, which do not have integrated speech recognition.

Dragon Dictation -- Free -- Great for iPad 1 and 2

A speech recognition software with high accuracy. Use the app to write emails and documents and to cut and paste to most apps. Must have a web or 3G connection to dictate; also on iPhone/iPod Touch and many cell phones; by Nuance.

Reading Apps

Bookshare.org is a service from which you can import books, textbooks, periodicals and newspapers straight from the website onto a mobile app. Bookshare's services are free under a federally funded grant for any student with a qualifying reading disability. If the qualifying individual is currently a student the services are free; if

not, it is \$50 annually with a one-time \$25 set-up fee. The following apps support the Bookshare Daisy format:

Voice Dream -- \$9.99 -- iOS A text-to-speech reader that can directly download books from Bookshare.org, Dropbox, Gutenberg.org, a web browser, and more to allow easy text-to-speech access. You can bookmark and highlight text and import text from other sources.

Read2Go -- \$19.99 -- iOS Read2Go is a text reader app from Bookshare.org . The Read2Go app will let you highlight the text, change the color of the background, and have the text read out loud on request. Also available on the iPhone/iPod Touch.

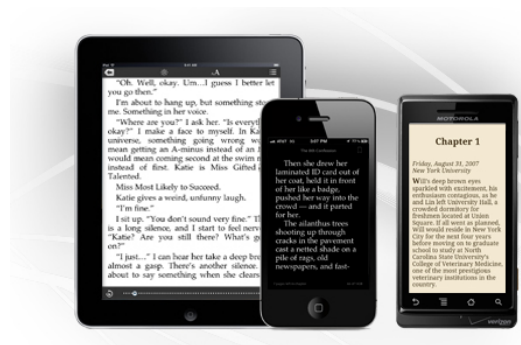
It couldn't have been a coincidence, which meant that the photos my grandfather had shown me--that he'd sworn were of children he'd known in this house-- *had really come from this house* . But could that mean, despite the doubts I'd harbored even as an eight-year-old, that the pictures were genuine? What about the fantastic stories that went along with them? That any of them could be true-- *literally* true--seemed unthinkable. And yet, standing there in dusty half-light in that dead house that seemed so alive with ghosts, I thought, *maybe*

Android Options:

GoRead: Free -- GoRead is a FREE accessible e-book reader for people with print disabilities.

Darwin Reader: 30-day free trial -- accessible e-book reader for people with print disabilities

OverDrive -- Free with library membership -- Android and iOS This is an audiobook and e-book app connected to the public library system to download books directly to your mobile device from your public library account. There are currently up to 20,000 books available online through this app. For auditory support you must use **VoiceOver** or **Talkback** support; it is not currently compatible with **Speak Selection** or **Highlighting** features.



Learning Ally Audio -- app Free with annual membership of \$119 -- Android and iOS

From LearningAlly.org (formerly Recordings for the Blind and Dyslexic). As a member of Learning Ally, you can download specially adapted audio books directly to the app. They have recently added a feature that they are phasing in called VOICetext so that audio books can be read along with coordinated visual text and highlighting features.

Scan-to-Read or Optical Character Recognition (OCR) Apps

For individuals who have difficulty with reading menus, mail, class handouts, etc., the following apps allow an individual to take a picture of text and have the iPad immediately read it for them.

AppWriter -- \$29.99 -- iOS only for OCR --

Fabulous option for Scan-to-Read; very accurate with the iPad 3rd and 4th generation (because of upgraded camera on these models). It not only allows the individual to take a picture of text and have it read out loud, but it also puts the text in a special "Dyslexie" font, used here, which is specifically crafted to reduce reversals and increase reading fluency. See below for its integrated writing supports such as word prediction and text-to-speech.

Prizmo -- \$9.99 -- iOS Scan-to-Read app that allows the individual to take a picture of text and have it read out loud.

IrisScanPDF -- \$6.99 with **ClaroPDF** -- \$2.99 -- iOS IrisScan PDF will allow a student to scan a worksheet and then export it into ClaroPDF, where it can be read to them in a form that looks identical to the worksheet. Then they can write their answers on top of the worksheet itself.

Notetaking, Organization and Study Tools



Notability -- \$4.99 -- iOS Great app for learning disabled students to fill out worksheets and make audio notes. User can import PDFs and pictures and write on them.

SoundNote -- \$4.99 -- iOS Take notes and record lectures in the same app. When reviewing your notes, click on words or drawings and hear what was being said when you wrote that note.

Inspiration Maps -- Lite version free or full version for \$9.99 -- iOS

An idea "mapping" and outlining tool to help organize ideas for essay and story writing.

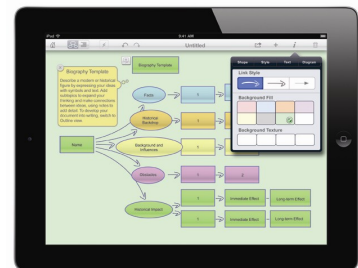
AudioNote -- Lite version free -- **Android** and iOS

Take notes and record lectures in the same app.

Merriam Webster Dictionary -- Free -- **Android** and iOS

This dictionary has integrated voice recognition so the individual can look up the word and use text-to-speech to hear the word's pronunciation, and it's compatible with select-and-say functions in the iPad operating systems.

Evernote -- Free -- **Android** and iOS Organize photos, text, and audio files and take notes that can be scanned and organized. A way to upload notes and remember appointments to help



students. Also on iOS, Evernote works with many tools such as a “Sky Pen” or “Smart Notebooks,” **Dolphin Web Browser** and many more apps and tools.

Dropbox -- Free -- **Android and iOS** Dropbox.com is a “cloud-based” drive to organize and store assignments, e-books and more. Organize your work on the “cloud” so you always have access to your homework.

A Dyslexic’s Dictionary -- Free -- **iOS** A free, auditory-supported spelling dictionary. It is simple and made for younger students who can find the first sounds of words.

Evernote Peek -- Free -- **iOS** A free flashcard app that allows the student to make flashcards, score their accuracy when studying, and share sets of flashcards with others. Works particularly well with “smart covers,” allowing you to flip cards by “peeking” and then opening the cover to see the answer.

Dyslexia Skill/Therapy Apps

There are thousands of apps to help build the visual perceptual and fine motor skills needed for reading and writing, but here are a few!

Ready to Print -- \$7.99 -- **Android and iOS** Practices fine motor skills and visual perceptual skills in developmental order, as well as pre-handwriting skills.

Wet-Dry-Try Capitals & Numbers -- \$4.99 -- **Android and iOS** Handwriting skills and fine motor development from Handwriting Without Tears.

Dyslexia Quest -- \$1.99 -- **iOS** A very fun game developing visual and auditory memory, visual memory, and more. Written specifically for Dyslexics but well made and a challenge for all ages.

Letter Tracking -- \$1.99 -- **iOS** Works specifically on eye tracking, visual perceptual skills, and letter reversals to help increase reading fluency.

Visual Attention TherAppy -- Lite version free or full version \$9.99 -- **iOS** Designed to improve reading, scanning, concentration, memory, attention to detail, and processing speed.

Dexteria -- \$3.99 and **LetterReflex** -- \$1.99 -- **iOS** Dexteria is written by an OT and is a set of therapeutic hand exercises that improve fine motor skills and handwriting readiness in children and adults to help build strength, control, and dexterity. Letter Reflex has activities for overcoming letter reversals and backwards writing in early childhood development.

What is Dyslexia -- Free -- **iOS** An educational app explaining what dyslexia is with an animated story telling about a young boy being diagnosed with dyslexia.