

Reading is an essential skill for individuals with disabilities as it can help them access information, improve communication and enhance their overall quality of life. For those with visual impairments, reading can be made possible through assistive technology, such as text-to-speech software, alternative reading methods, audio books and simplified texts. The following apps, features and websites provide tools for helping persons with disabilities to read more effectively.

SeeingAI is a free app developed by Microsoft for individuals who are visually impaired. It uses your mobile device camera and artificial intelligence to recognize objects, people and text and then reads them aloud.

Compatibility: iOS

Cost: Free

Sullivan+ is a free app that uses your mobile device camera to recognize and identify objects and text and then reads them aloud. Some features of this app may require an internet connection to function correctly.

Compatibility: iOS, Android

Cost: Free

VoiceDream Reader is a text-to-speech app that allows users to listen to written content. The app features a variety of reading voices and can read several file types, including PDFs and eBooks. It also allows you to customize the reading experience, such as adjusting the font size and color.

Compatibility: iOS, Android

Cost: \$14.99

Libby is a free app that allows you to borrow eBooks and audiobooks from your local library. You can browse through available titles, place holds and borrow books with just a few clicks. A valid library card is needed to use this app.

Compatibility: iOS, Android

Cost: Free

BARD Mobile is an app developed by the National Library Service (NLS) for the Blind and Print Disabled that allows you to access thousands of audiobooks and magazines. The app is only available to individuals who are registered with the NLS.

Compatibility: iOS and Android

Cost: Free

Learning Ally is a website that provides audiobooks for individuals with dyslexia, blindness or other visual impairments. The site offers a wide range of titles, including textbooks, literature and popular fiction.

Compatibility: Web App

Cost: \$135 per year

HelperBird is a browser extension that offers a wide range of tools to improve online reading. This includes features to read text aloud, dyslexia fonts, highlighters and other annotation tools.

Compatibility: Web App

Cost: Price ranges from Free to \$79.99 per year

Read Aloud is a free browser extension that reads web pages aloud. The extension can read a range of languages and offers several customization options, such as adjusting the reading speed and voice. Read Aloud is available for Chrome and Edge.

Compatibility: Web app

Cost: Free

Open Dyslexic is a free font designed to make reading easier for individuals with dyslexia. The font uses unique letter shapes and spacing to reduce confusion and improve readability. The font can be downloaded and used on most devices.

Compatibility: Windows, Mac, iOS, Android

Cost: Free

Immersive Reader is a tool developed by Microsoft that offers a range of features to improve reading comprehension. This includes features such as reading text aloud, language translation, syllable highlighting and much more.

Compatibility: Available in Edge Browser, MS Word, OneNote and MS Teams

Cost: Free

ReWordify is a free website that simplifies text that is difficult to read or comprehend. The site offers several tools to make reading more accessible, including a thesaurus, definitions and simplified text. ReWordify is compatible with most web browsers.

Compatibility: Web App

Cost: Free

SMMRY is a website that summarizes written content. Users can copy and paste text into the site, and it will generate a summary of the key points. The site offers several customization options, such as adjusting the length of the summary.

Compatibility: Web App

Cost: Free

iOS Speak Selection is a built-in accessibility feature on iOS devices that reads selected text aloud. Users can select text and then choose the “speak” option to have the device read the text aloud. You can turn this feature on by going to Settings/Accessibility/Spoken Content.

Compatibility: iOS

Cost: Free

iOS Speak Screen is a built-in accessibility feature on iOS devices that reads the screen. It can be personalized to adjust the reading speed and voice, and you can choose to have text highlighted as it reads aloud. This feature is helpful for people with visual impairments or reading difficulties. You can turn this feature on by going to Settings/Accessibility/Spoken Content.

Compatibility: iOS

Cost: Free