



Assistive Technology Solutions for Reading

Carolyn Phillips & Rachel Wilson, Tools for Life

With contributions from Martha Rust, Liz Persaud, Ben Jacobs & Ben Satterfield

www.gatfl.org

For Handouts: <http://www.gatfl.gatech.edu/tflwiki>

**EASI Webinar
Series 2015
March 12
2:00 PM to 3:00 PM**



www.amacusg.org

Description

Technology can help all students achieve academic success! This webinar is focused on assistive technology solutions for reading. Presenters will share some of the basic difficulties individuals with learning disabilities encounter when they are reading and then provide examples of how low, mid and high assistive tech devices are creating solutions. Discussion will focus on specific environments and how these devices are assisting people living with various learning disabilities in college. Strategies, solutions and resources that provide supports will be discussed.

For Handouts: <http://www.gatfl.gatech.edu/tflwiki>

AMAC

AMAC Accessibility is a social change organization on a mission to create affordable services for governmental, private and non-profits organization working with individuals with disabilities. Services include e-text, braille, captioning, assistive technology, office management software and consulting.





Accessibility Made Smart

AMAC creates practical solutions that work, with a focus on utility, ease of use, and high quality.

- **Accessibility Consulting** focuses on organizational accessibility needs with evaluation, technical assistance, customer support, and website accessibility solutions.
- **Braille Services** produces customized projects from both print materials and electronic text including partial books and chapters or graphics only using cutting-edge technology.
- **Captioning Services** makes classrooms, meetings, labs and other audio environments fully accessible for deaf or hard-of-hearing.
- **Professional E-Text Producers** provide high-quality e-text in many formats such as PDF, DOC, DAISY, and HTML.
- **Certified Assistive Technology team** provides on-site and remote assessments, demonstrations, training and technical assistance for education, work, and daily living environments.

For more information, please visit our website at www.amacusg.org

Tools for Life Mission

We're here to help Georgians with disabilities gain access to and acquisition of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services so they can live, learn, work, and play independently in the communities of their choice.



Come Visit Us!

- TRAINING
- FUNDING
- PUBLICATIONS
- TFL WIKI
- MEET THE TFL TEAM
- MEET THE ADVISORY COUNCIL
- DIRECTIONS/MAP
- JOIN OUR MAILING LIST
- SCHEDULE A TOUR**

Welcome AT Services Try AT Get AT AT Guides Research



Welcome to Tools for Life

Tools for Life, Georgia's Assistive Technology Act Program, is dedicated to increasing access to and acquisition of assistive technology (AT) devices and services for Georgians of all ages and disabilities so they can live, learn, work and play independently and with greater freedom in communities of their choice.

ATLANTA ABILITIES EXPO

Abilities EXPO

MAR
14

Georgia World Congress
Center
Hall C4
Atlanta, GA

WEBINARS

FEB
6

[Choosing Core AT Inventory for the Classroom](#)

FEB
18

[Two Peas in a Pod: IEP Objectives & Standards Based Instruction](#)

MAR
6

[TFL & Center for AT Excellence TBD](#)

- Current Webinar Schedule
- Webinar Archives

TOOLS FOR LIFE APPFINDER



...for Living, Learning, Working, and Playing.

TFL AppFinder



Georgia Tech TOOLS for LIFE
Georgia's Assistive Technology Act Program

HOME ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY TFL NETWORK CALENDAR OF EVENTS   Search our Site Go

TRAINING
FUNDING
PUBLICATIONS
TFL WIKI
MEET THE TFL TEAM
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Welcome AT Services Try AT Get AT AT Guides Research

Learn More about AT through Hands-On Demonstrations

• • • • •

Welcome to Tools for Life

Tools for Life, Georgia's Assistive Technology Act Program, is dedicated to increasing access to and acquisition of assistive technology (AT) devices and services for Georgians of all ages and disabilities so they can live, learn, work and play independently and with greater freedom in communities of their choice.

Tools for Life and the TFL Network work collaboratively together to accomplish our mission through:

IDEAS CONFERENCE

JUN 2 Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island

WEBINARS

MAY 28 [Georgia's Leadership Model for Increasing Accessible ICT in State Government](#)

JUN 25 [Learn More and Do More: Exploring Accessibility and Apps for Android](#)

JUL 30 [Position for Work: A Closer Look at Workplace Accommodations & Assessments](#)

- Current Webinar Schedule
- Webinar Archives

TOOLS FOR LIFE APPFINDER

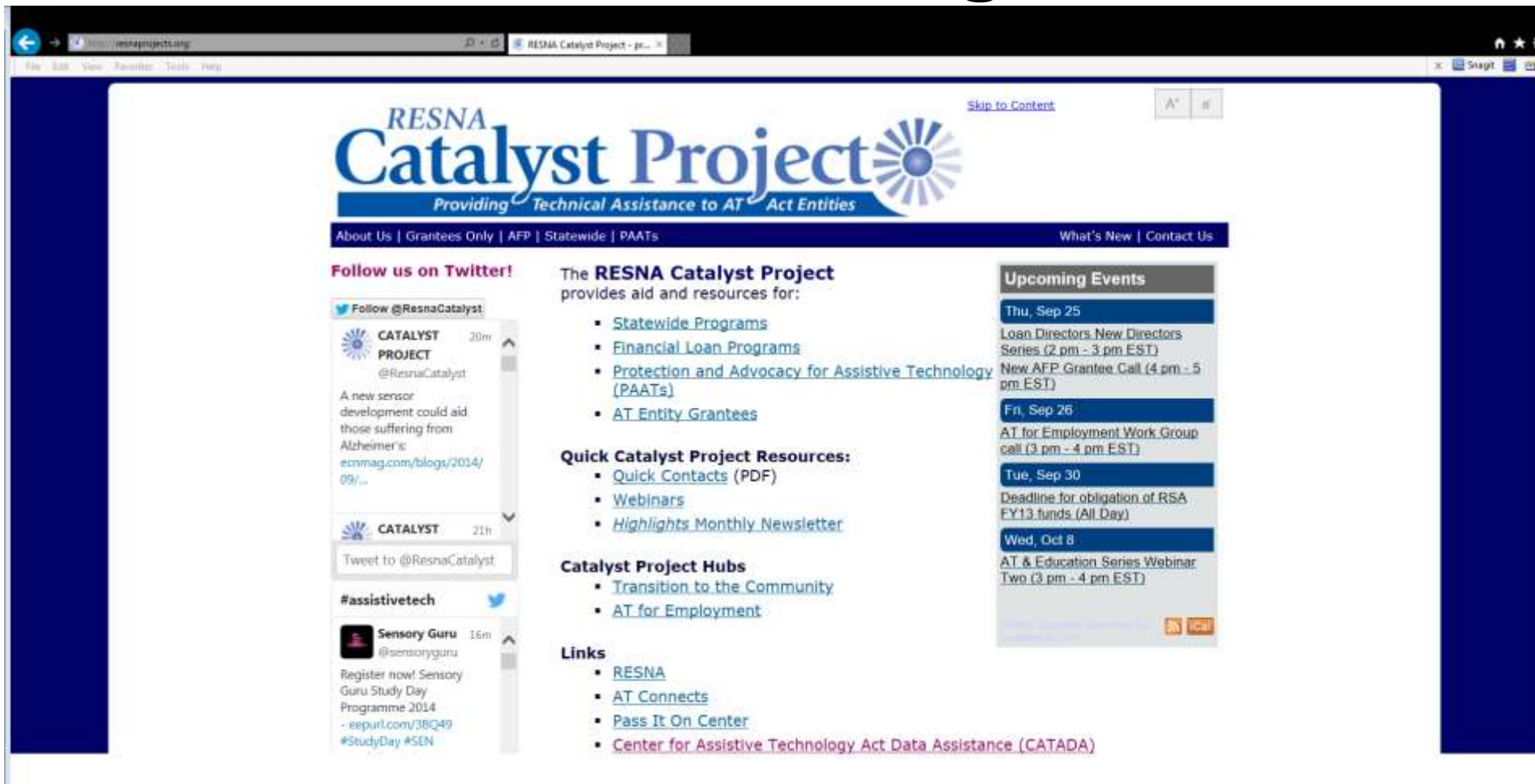


...For Living, Learning, Working, and Playing.

AT ONLINE EXCHANGE



Get to Know Your AT Act Program



The screenshot shows the RESNA Catalyst Project website. The header features the RESNA Catalyst Project logo with the tagline "Providing Technical Assistance to AT Act Entities". Navigation links include "About Us", "Grantees Only", "AFP", "Statewide", "PAATs", "What's New", and "Contact Us".

Follow us on Twitter!

Follow @ResnaCatalyst

CATALYST PROJECT @ResnaCatalyst 20m
A new sensor development could aid those suffering from Alzheimer's: [ecnmag.com/blogs/2014/09/...](http://ecnmag.com/blogs/2014/09/)

CATALYST 21h
Tweet to @ResnaCatalyst

#assistivetech

Sensory Guru @sensoryguru 16m
Register now! Sensory Guru Study Day Programme 2014 - eepurl.com/3BQ49 #StudyDay #SEN

The RESNA Catalyst Project provides aid and resources for:

- Statewide Programs
- Financial Loan Programs
- Protection and Advocacy for Assistive Technology (PAATs)
- AT Entity Grantees

Quick Catalyst Project Resources:

- Quick Contacts (PDF)
- Webinars
- Highlights Monthly Newsletter

Catalyst Project Hubs

- Transition to the Community
- AT for Employment

Links

- RESNA
- AT Connects
- Pass It On Center
- Center for Assistive Technology Act Data Assistance (CATADA)

Upcoming Events

Thu, Sep 25
Loan Directors New Directors Series (2 pm - 3 pm EST)
New AFP Grantee Call (4 pm - 5 pm EST)

Fri, Sep 26
AT for Employment Work Group call (3 pm - 4 pm EST)

Tue, Sep 30
Deadline for obligation of RSA FY13 funds (All Day)

Wed, Oct 8
AT & Education Series Webinar Two (3 pm - 4 pm EST)

- <http://resnaprojects.org/>

Why Assistive Technology?

- For a person without a disability, technology makes things easier....
- For a person with a disability, technology makes things possible.
- **TIP: USE AT. I have yet to meet a successful student with disabilities who doesn't use Any AT.**





What is Assistive Technology?

Assistive Technology Device

...any item, piece of equipment or product that is used to increase, maintain or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.

- Public Law 105-394 [29 USC 2201]

Low/No-tech

- pencil grip
- adapted books
- slant board
- highlighters, tape
- magnifiers
- color coding
- read to out loud
- picture schedule
- strategies for memory
- colored transparencies
- Proof readers
- note taker

Mid-Tech

- word prediction
- text to speech
- speech to text
- spell checkers
- talking calculators
- digital recorders
- organizers
- e-books
- adapted keyboard
- adapted mouse
- adapted toys
- CCTV
- apps under \$100

High-Tech

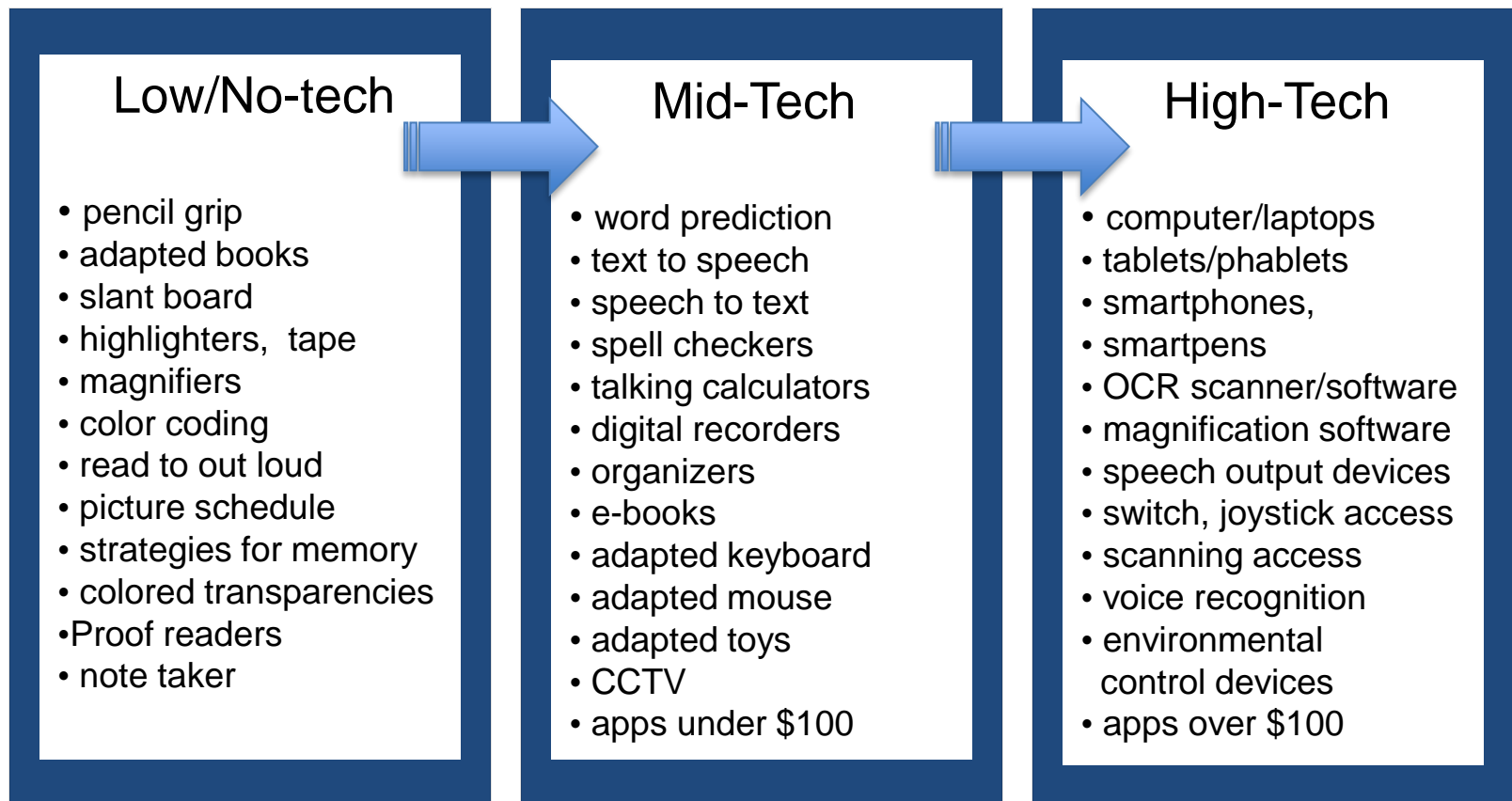
- computer/laptops
- tablets/phablets
- smartphones,
- smartpens
- OCR scanner/software
- magnification software
- speech output devices
- switch, joystick access
- scanning access
- voice recognition
- environmental control devices
- apps over \$100



Assistive Technology Continuum

Observations & “Hanging out with Intent”

Assistive Technology is a **continuum of tools, strategies, and services** that match a person’s needs, abilities and tasks.





Moving from Information to Action

Evaluations for Learning Disabilities

- ☐ One to one assessment
- ☐ Comprehensive battery of tests
- ☐ Detailed report with recommendations for support in work and/or learning

- What did You learn in your LD Evaluation?
- Moving from Information to Action
 - Using your Evaluation results as an Action Plan for AT



Moving from Information to an AT Action Plan

Auditory Processing Disorder (APD)

- “Also known as Central Auditory Processing Disorder, this is a condition that adversely affects how sound that travels unimpeded through the ear is processed or interpreted by the brain. Individuals with **APD do not recognize subtle differences between sounds in words, even when the sounds are loud and clear enough to be heard.** They can also find it difficult to tell where sounds are coming from, to make sense of the order of sounds, or to block out competing background noises.”
- What does this information tell us regarding our AT Action Plan?



Moving from Information to an AT Action Plan - Dyscalculia

Dyscalculia

- “A specific learning disability that affects a person’s ability to understand numbers and learn math facts.
- Individuals with this type of LD may also have:
 - poor comprehension of math symbols,
 - may struggle with memorizing and organizing numbers,
 - have difficulty telling time, or
 - have trouble with counting.”
- What does this information tell us regarding our AT Action Plan?



Moving from Information to an AT Action Plan - Dyslexia

Dyslexia

- A specific learning disability that affects reading and related language-based processing skills. Dyslexia is sometimes referred to as a Language-Based Learning Disability.
- The severity can differ in each individual but can affect:
 - reading
 - fluency,
 - decoding,
 - reading comprehension,
 - recall,
 - writing,
 - spelling, and
 - sometimes speech and can exist along with other related disorders.
- What does this information tell us regarding our AT Action Plan? <http://ldaamerica.org/types-of-learning-disabilities/>



The “FAST” Track

- **Frustration**
- **Anxiety**
- **Stress**
- **Tension**

Human Activity Technology (HAAT) Model

- Human: represents the skills and abilities of the person with a disability
- Activity: a set of tasks to be performed by the person with a disability
- Context: the setting or social, cultural and physical contexts that surround the environment in which the activity must be completed
- Assistive Technology: devices or strategies used to bridge the gap between the person's abilities and the demands of the environment

The SETT Framework

S = Student/Skills

E = Environment

T = Tasks

T = Tools



Adapted from Joy Zabala www.joyzabala.com

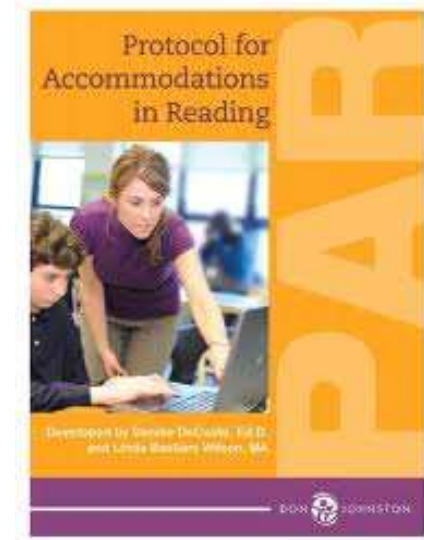
AT Solutions for Reading

Low Tech AT Solutions



PAR: Protocol for Accommodations for Reading

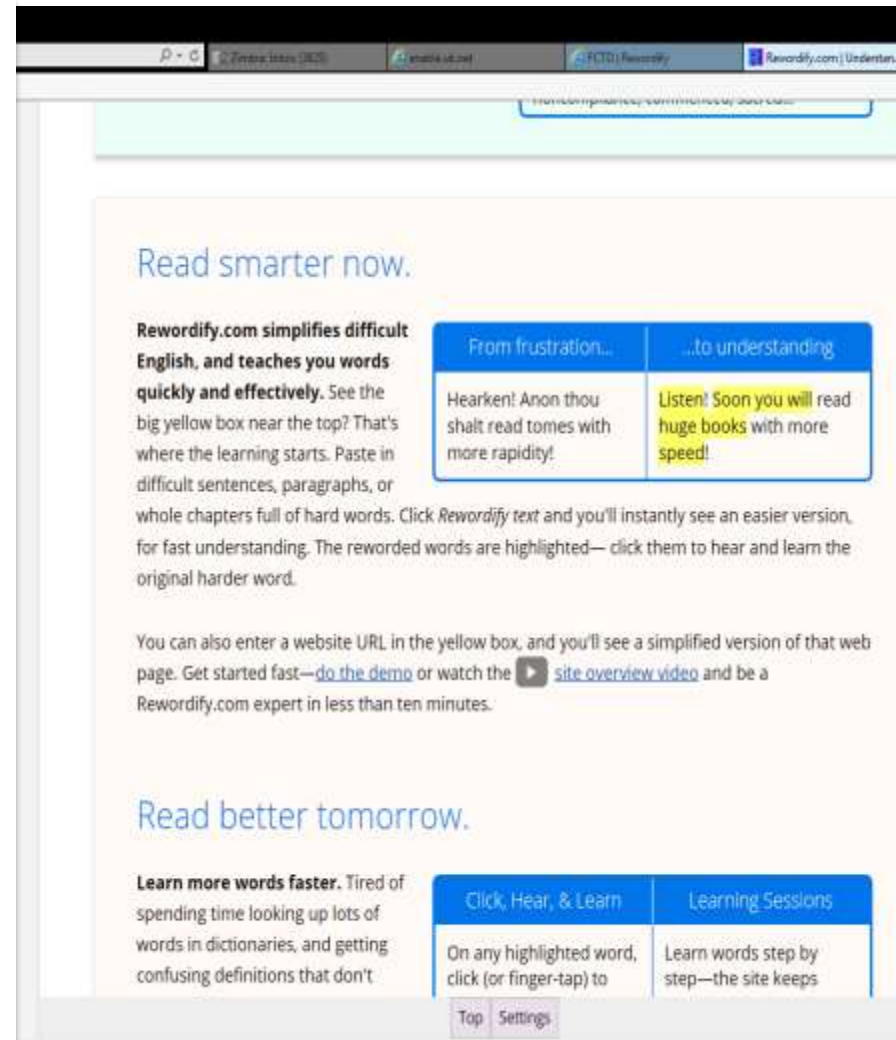
- Don Johnston
- Assist with accommodations for reading
- 3 Steps
 - 1) Student's Oral Reading
 - 2) Adult Reader
 - 3) Text Reader
- How did the student like?
- Help with adding in AT for reading solutions



Rewordify.com

“Rewordify is a free website that makes English easier to read. In some ways it is similar to a thesaurus, but allows users to enter not just single words, but entire sentences, pages, and even websites, for clarification. Passages are preferred, as difficult words are 'rewordified' using the context of the sentence. For example, paste in "The tempest raged outside while the throng huddled inside.", and it is 'rewordified' into, "the storm raged outside while the crowd huddled inside.”

Students can use this tool to make passages more understandable. Simplified words are highlighted for quick comparison with the original word(s).”



The screenshot shows the Rewordify.com website. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for "Home", "About", "FAQ", "Privacy", "Terms", and "Contact". Below this, a large heading reads "Read smarter now." followed by a subheading "Rewordify.com simplifies difficult English, and teaches you words quickly and effectively." The main content area features a large yellow box for pasting text, with instructions on how to use the tool. To the right of the text box, there's a table comparing the original text with the reworded version. Below this, there's a section for "Read better tomorrow." with a subheading "Learn more words faster." and another table showing how to use the tool for learning words. At the bottom, there are links for "Top" and "Settings".

From frustration...	...to understanding
Hearken! Anon thou shalt read tomes with more rapidity!	Listen! Soon you will read huge books with more speed!

Click, Hear, & Learn	Learning Sessions
On any highlighted word, click (or finger-tap) to	Learn words step by step—the site keeps

Word Wise - Kindle

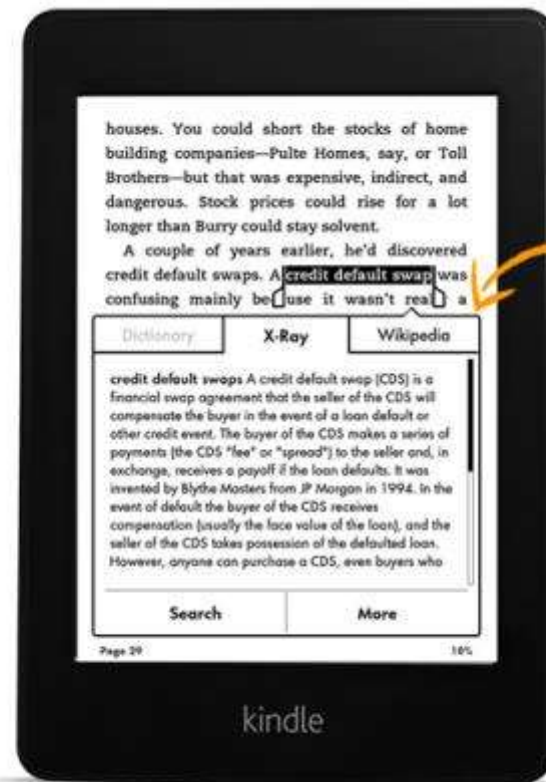
- Displays short definitions above difficult words while reading.
- Works with the [Kindle Voyage](#), Kindle Paperwhite 2, and [Kindle](#).
- [Amazon](#) lists 3,555 [Word Wise enabled ebooks](#).
- You can download to test the feature if you want to see Word Wise in action.

mates was the responsible person. So off I drove to Walworth, and found Mr. Joseph Smollet at home and in his ^{a part of a shirt} shirtsleeves, taking a late tea out of a ^{a small round dish} saucer. He is a ^{moral and honest} decent, intelligent fellow, distinctly a good, ^{able to be trusted} reliable type of ^{a skilled worker} workman, and with a ^{a covering for the head} headpiece of his own. He remembered all about the incident of the boxes, and from a wonderful ^{a book used for writing notes} dog-eared notebook, which he produced from some mysterious ^{a container used to hold} receptacle about the seat of his ^{clothing worn on one's legs} trousers, and which had hieroglyphical entries in thick, half-obliterated pencil, ^{a tool used to write and draw} he gave me the destinations of the boxes. There were, ^{place where one is going} he said, six in the cartload which he took from Carfax and left at 197 Chicksand Street, Mile End New Town, and another six which he deposited at Jamaica Lane,

X-Ray - Kindle

X-Ray is a reference tool incorporated in [Amazon Kindle](#) Touch and later models, the [Kindle Fire](#) tablets, the Kindle app for mobile platforms, [Fire Phone](#) and [Fire TV](#).

X-Ray lets users explore in more depth the contents of a book, to "get to its bones". Users can touch a word to launch either a dictionary definition or a more in-depth explanation provided by [Wikipedia](#) or [Shelfari](#).



Smart Lookup integrates a full dictionary with X-Ray and Wikipedia so you can access definitions, characters, settings, and more without leaving your page

BookSense

- Compact and portable DAISY reader
- Compatible with a wide range of audio format
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- Ability to record notes
- Listen to books and music on the go
- \$299
- <http://www.hims-inc.com/products/booksense/>



Victor Reader Stream (new generation)

- Handheld media player by Humanware
- Plays DAISY books, MP3, MP4, EPUB
- Records voice and media
- Two built-in, human-sounding voices
- Built-in wireless networking capability
- \$369



Reading Pens

- Scans text,
- Hear it spoken aloud
- Obtains definitions and correct pronunciation within seconds
- Variety of types
 - Wizcom
 - IRISPen
 - PenPower
 - Video Touch Pen by MoralRegion



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This project is supported by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (Cooperative Agreement #H327K070001). Opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the position of the U.S. Department of Education.

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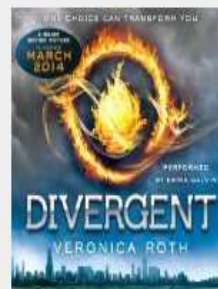
All Categories



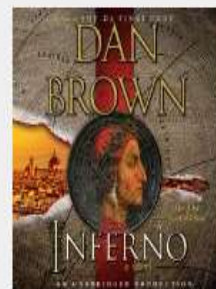
Best Sellers in All Categories



The Cuckoo's Calling



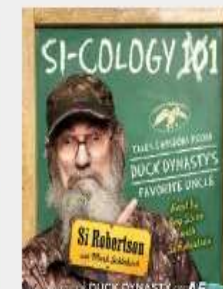
Divergent



Inferno: A Novel



The Fault in Our Stars



Si-cology 1: Tales and
Wisdom from ...

Customer Favorites in All Categories

Types of Reading Apps

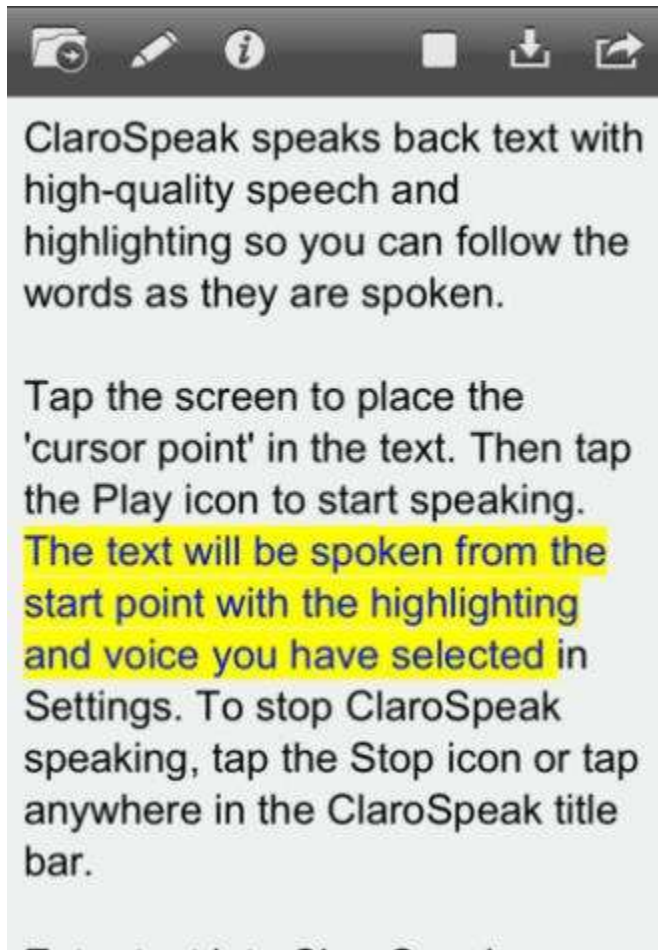
- There are over 27,000 reading apps and over 500,000 books and publications
- Active Reading Apps
 - Studies show that comprehension improves by 38%-70%
 - Defined as eyes are on the screen following the words
 - Highlighting of words, sentences, and paragraphs
- Passive Reading App
 - No pictures
 - Usually synthetic Computer Generated Voices/ VoiceOver
 - *Therese Willkomm*

Mobile Tablets/ eReaders

- What do I need?
- Does it read out loud?
- Do I need Apps?
- Change colors?
- Change line spacing?
- Textbooks?
- Fun Reading?

Reading Software

ClaroSpeak US



- Text-to-Speech
 - import documents and PDFs into ClaroSpeak from apps such as Mail, or import PDF, Word, Pages and other files directly from Dropbox using
- Change font and color
- Save text as an audio file
- Visual Tracking
- Send Text

ClaroRead

- Reads text as it highlights
- Moveable tool bar
- Can read doc, PDFs, internet, and more
- 6.2 version
 - In Europe
 - Can save directly to iTunes
 - Create a video
- Can change highlighting colors
- www.claroread.com



Premier Software

- Read documents in standard file formats such as Microsoft Word, Rich Text, text file format, HTML, and PDF
- Converted to audio files for use on a CD or MP3 player
- Scan and read documents
- Look up a word or definition in the integrated dictionary
- Create study notes and much more!
- www.readingmadeeZ.com



Reading & Writing Software Solutions

Kurzweil 3000

- Text-to-Speech software
- Helps improve reading speed and comprehension
- Note taking capabilities
 - Different color highlighters
- firefly
 - Access many features of Kurzweil through the internet
 - [firefly demo](#)
- Free download trial
 - www.kurzweiledu.com
 - [Kurzweil 3000 Demo](#)



TextHelp

- Text-to- Speech software
- Helps improves reading skills
- Built in text and picture dictionaries
- Study skills highlighter
- Has a Google Chrom version
- www.texthelp.com



WYNN

- What You Need Now
- Internet Features
- Freedom Scientific
- Scanning and Reading software
- Highlights text as spoken
- Icon friendly
- Built in study tools



Which One???



Kindle Fire HD/HDX

- eBook Reader and mobile tablet
- Front facing camera
- Access to Amazon apps
- Free cloud storage for Amazon purchases
- Purchase Apps
- 7inch or 8.9 inch screen
- 'Mayday' button HDX
- Starts at \$139- HD
- \$199- HDX



Apple iPad/ mini iPad

- Multi- touch screen
- Millions of apps
- Surf web
- iTunes
- Videos
- Organization
- Accessibility
- Books
- Photos
- Speakers
- New iPad had 5.0 megapixel camera
- Starts at \$499/\$399 and mini \$329



Built-in Accessibility Features

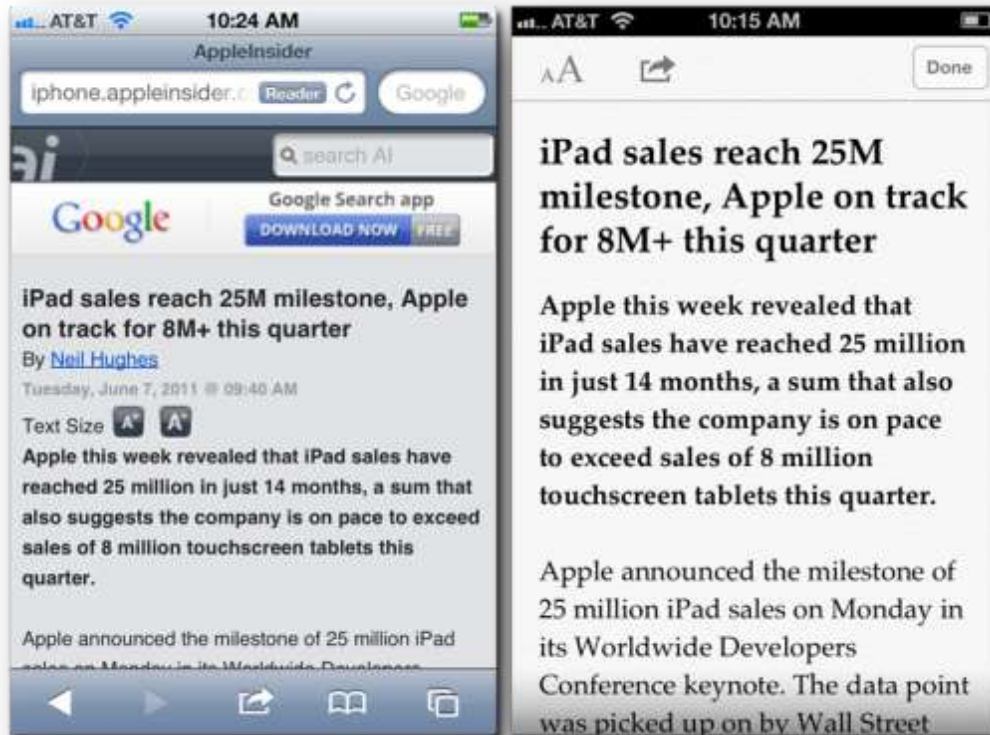
- VoiceOver
- Zoom
- Large Text
- Invert Colors
 - (white on black)
- Speak Selection
- Speak Auto Text
- Mono Audio
- Assistive Touch
- Guided Access
- Home-Click Speed
- Incoming Calls
- Braille Displays



VoiceOver

- Standard feature on iPhones, iPads, and iTouches
- World's first gesture-based screen reader
- **DOES NOT WORK WITH ALL APPS**
 - Does not work with many eBooks or textbooks
 - Works with built-in apps
- Built-in voices that speak 36 languages
- Adjustable speaking rate
- Echoes each character as you touch it when typing or can speak completed word instead.
- Speak Auto-text
- Has the rotor
- Works with all built-in applications

Reader for Websites



- Read articles and web pages without distractions
- Clutter disappears
- Add link into Reading List and finish later

Surface Pro 3



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 13" MacBook Air	 Tips the scales at 2.96lbs and is 0.68" thick	 Available with Intel [®] Core™ i5 and i7 processor options	 OS X offers no support for snapping 2 apps side by side, but does allow you to multitask



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Leslie Deflaker and others

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Geometry Connections, Version 3.1

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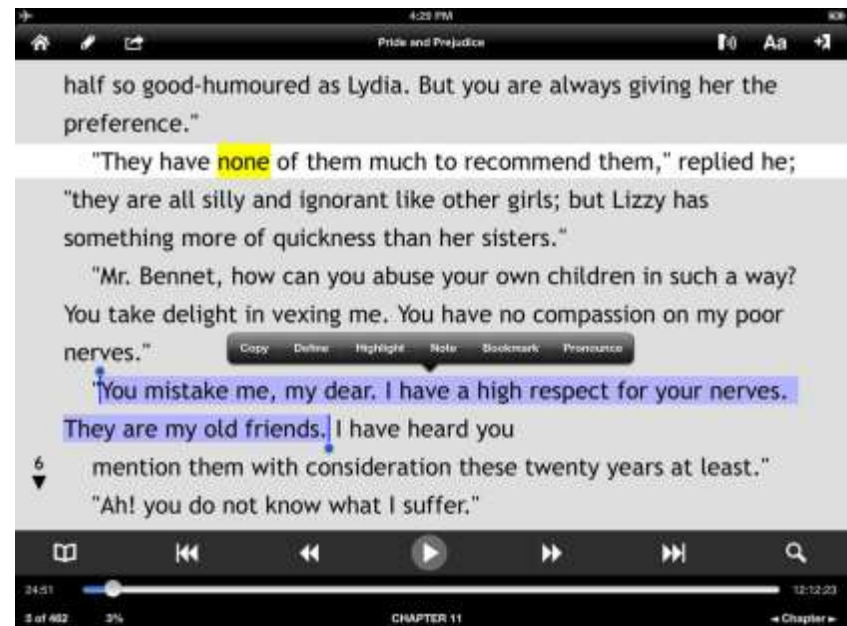
Level 1
Appendix A

Level 1
Appendix B

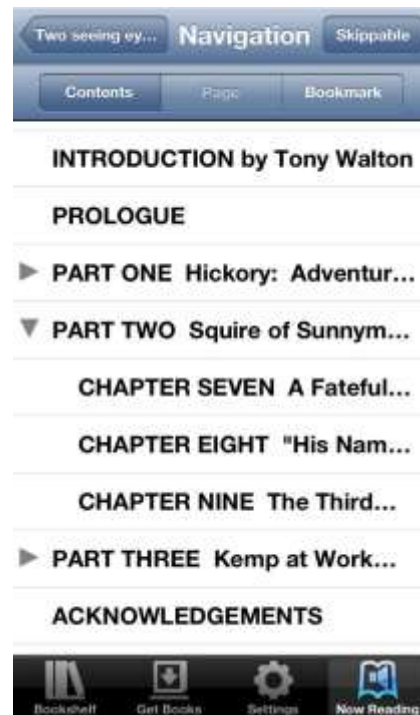
Voice Dream

- Text to Speech
- Highlights as it reads
- Import
 - Bookshare
 - Dropbox
 - Gutenberg
 - Word Doc
 - PDFs
- Buy different voices
- Change rate of speed

- Download for later reading
- \$9.99



BARD Mobile



- Access directly to the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS)
- Must be registered
- Settings
- Can use with braille display
- <http://www.loc.gov/nls/find.html>
- Free

MyMedSchedule

- Keep track of medication
- Reminders
- Refill Reminders
- Healthcare Provider Profiles
- Insurance Information
- Allergies
- Works across Platforms
- Free
- www.mymedschedule.com



Fooducate



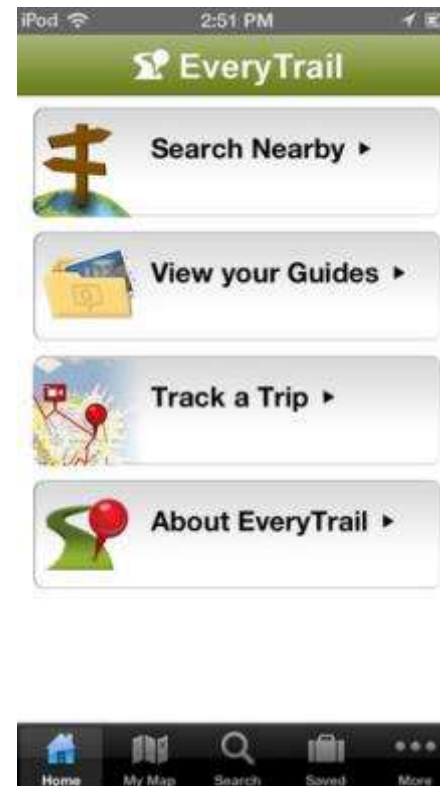
- Track calories
- Provides healthier options
- Educates on food ingredients
- Save favorites
- Create lists
- App for allergies and gluten-free
- App for diabetes nutrition
- Free
- www.fooducate.com



EveryTrail



- Tracks route using your iPhone GPS
- Use with walking tours, biking, running, hiking, sailing and driving
- Travel map is visible and drawn while trip is in progress
- Plot camera photos and video on map instantly
- View stats (distance, speed, elevation and more) while tracking
- View topography and terrain maps on iPhone
- Download maps for offline viewing
- Free



USA Today



- Current Events in order
- Breaking News Alerts
- Videos
- Photos and Text
- Pick Favorite Interests
- Free

SkyGrid



- Personalize news events by categories
- Simple interface
- Free
- www.skygrid.com



What's New In AT and the AT Community:

- **Perhaps, Where We Are Going**



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E-Readers Can Make Reading Easier for Those With Dyslexia

Sep. 18, 2013 — As e-readers grow in popularity as convenient alternatives to traditional books, researchers at the Smithsonian have found that convenience may not be their only benefit. The team discovered that when e-readers are set up to display only a few words per line, some people with dyslexia can read more easily, quickly and with greater comprehension. Their findings are published in the Sept. 18 issue of the journal *PLOS ONE*.

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An element in many cases of dyslexia is called a visual attention deficit. It is marked by an inability to concentrate on letters within words or words within lines of text. Another element is known as visual crowding--the failure to recognize letters when they are cluttered within the

[enlarge](#)

STUDENT NAME: _____

Tutor's Initials: _____

Period: _____

Time it took student to read first pass through _____

A group of women crammed in to the Crenshaw Boulevard bus, getting on at the Grove Street stop. Shoving students and other passengers off for their private worlds, creating the illusion of space from them from the others on the bus. The word made from newspapers and magazines, but at the panels of advertising that lined the

2-1. Why was it difficult to get on the bus?



In the paper condition students read passages from the Gates-MacGinitie Reading Tests and answered multiple choice questions as shown. In the iPod condition the reading passage was displayed on the iPod (scrolled vertically using a finger on the

Interests
read So

Just In:
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MIT Finger Device Reads to the Blind in Real Time



By RODRIQUE NGOWI
Associated Press

JULY 3, 2014 1:24 AM

In this Thursday, June 26, 2014 photo, a model wears a FingerReader ring at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Media Lab in Cambridge, Mass. Researchers designed and developed the instrument, which enables people with visual disabilities to read text printed on paper or electronic devices. (AP Photo/Stephan Savola) AP

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See for Yourself

What is OrCam?

OrCam is an intuitive portable device with a smart camera designed to assist people who are visually impaired.

OrCam gives independence.





Other Resources

Atomic Learning Tutorials

AMAC membership also provides you with access to Atomic Learning videos. Click on the **Support** Tab in the Student Download Center and click on **Atomic Learning** to access video tutorials on many widely used applications and devices such as Microsoft Office and iOS for iPad and iPhone.



Additional Resources

Family Center on Technology and Disability
<http://www.fctd.info>

WrightsLaw
<http://www.wrightslaw.com>

National Disability Rights Network
<http://www.napas.org/>

A Guide to Disability Rights Law – U.S. Department of Justice
<http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/cguide.htm>

American Association of People with Disabilities
<http://www.aapd-dc.org/>

Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities
<http://www.c-c-d.org/>



Many states have their own Disability Law or Protection and Advocacy Organizations. Links to these sites can be found on the Family Center on Technology and Disability's Website under Member Organizations.



**Our Question to You:
What have You Learned today?**