

Free Education Technology for Reading

Free AT software is available to all Students

MyStudyBar is a useful free tool that helps overcome common problems that students (or anyone) can have with studying, reading and writing. The tool consists of a set of portable open source and freeware applications, assembled into one convenient package.

Examples include: Xmind for planning and organization; T-Bar for customising font and colour backgrounds; Lingoes for when you need a talking dictionary; LetMeType for help with text input, and Balabolka for converting text to audio. And if all that's not enough, there's even a speech-to-text app which allows you to talk to your computer. You can use MyStudyBar straight from a USB stick (if, for example, you are using a machine that is not your own) or you can install it directly to the desktop.

Download MyStudyBar for Windows XP

Download MyStudyBar for Windows Vista/Win 7

- **Visor** Screen dimmer and reading aid, may help with fluency, eye-strain, concentration and comprehension whilst reading.
- **SpokenText** can convert an entire block of text, document, webpage, or email. You're able to choose through many premium-quality voices and select the voice speed and volume. SpokenText also gives you the option to send an email to you when your recording has been processed. User registration required.
- **Read the Words** is a free online way to create speech recordings in English, French or Spanish in seconds. User registration required.
- **vozMe** converts text to MP3 format. No registration is required and you can immediately download and save your text to speech recordings, in English or Spanish.
- **NaturalReader** is a free Text to Speech software with natural sounding voices. This easy to use software can convert any written text such as MS Word, Webpage, PDF files, and Emails into spoken words. NaturalReader can also convert any written text into audio files such as MP3 or WAV for your CD player or iPod.

There are also various add-ons for Firefox that will read aloud to you from the web including **FoxVox** and **Text to Voice**. Install either by clicking on the relevant links above or open Firefox > click on Tools > Add-Ons > Get Add-Ons. Then search for FoxVox and/or Text to Voice to install them. After installation, you can highlight text on a webpage and right-click it to play aloud text with either Add-On.

- **Select & Speak** – is a handy extension for Google Chrome that allows users to listen to text from almost any website.
- **Speak It** is another Google Chrome extension that enables you to have the text on most webpages read to you.
- **Announcify** is a free text to speech application that is available as a **Chrome browser extension** and as an **Android app**.

Free Educational Technology Low Vision

LowBrowse Firefox Add-on creates a new frame in the top part of the browser that, on hover over, presents the text in a single line with configurable text size, font, color contrast and letter spacing without having to zoom in and out.

Readable Firefox Add-on and **Readability Chrome Add-on** transform text on any website using fonts, colors, and layouts that you choose.

NoSquint Firefox Add-on lets you adjust the font size and color as well as customize the overall page look and feel.

Make Address Bar Font Size Bigger Firefox Add-on makes the URL Address Bar font size bigger.

Screenreaders do more than read selected text aloud. They read the contents of menus and other metadata. **Thunder** is a free screenreader available for download in 12 languages.

Free Educational Technology For Writing

Inputting text

Take a typing test to find out your typing speed, then set a target for yourself at **Good Typing** where you can learn how to type correctly in just a few hours using all your fingers.

- **Speachnotes.co** Speachnotes is a reliable and secure web-based speech-to-text tool that enables you to quickly and accurately transcribe your audio and video recordings, as well as dictate your notes instead of typing, saving you time and effort. With features like voice commands for punctuation and formatting, automatic capitalization, and easy import/export options
- Try some simple typing lessons for standard keyboards on **Power Typing**
- **TypingWeb** is a free online typing tutor & keyboarding tutorial for typists of all skill levels.
- **TypingLessonsOnline** is another web based touch typing program that helps you to learn touch typing online. It provides free and interactive typing lessons and exercises.
- For ways to keep practicing your typing, you can race against other learners online on **Type Racer** or try to keep up with songs on **Typing Karaoke**. Another fun game is like space invaders where you have to hit the correct keys to shoot falling words, called **ZType**.
- For a range of other typing games, try the **Rapid Typing Zone**.

If you still find that your typing speed is not where it should be, dictating text may be an answer worth investigating. The biggest challenge for dictating your thoughts into a computer or mobile application is that you have to think about what you're going to say before you say it. If you speak in full sentences and at a normal speed, you will improve the recognition accuracy.

You can try out dictation as part of the Windows 7 Ease of Use tools. Alternatively, the following websites may be useful: **Online Dictation** and **Talk Typer** (both require access via the Google Chrome browser). You

may also want to try [PaperPort Notes for the iPad](#).

Free Educational Technology For Planning

Getting your ideas out of your head and organised can be a challenge. Mind mapping allows for free form brainstorming followed by structuring of notes, assignments or presentations, using images, colours and links.

[Bubbl.us](#) is a mind-mapping product aimed towards literally anyone who needs help organizing their thoughts or any untidy information.

[Gliffy](#) creates professional-quality flowcharts, diagrams, floor plans, technical drawings, and more.

[Mind42](#) is a browser based online collaborative mind mapping application.

[Mindmeister](#) is a browser based online collaborative brainstorming and mind mapping application.

[Coggle](#) is a browser based online tool to unleash your creativity.

Researching

The [Research Paper Wizard](#) is designed to help you work through the research steps of writing your paper and meet your assignment deadline.

To locate material, try [Sweetsearch](#), the search engine for Students and [Google Scholar](#), the educational side of googling

To keep track of what you've found for your bibliography, try [EasyBib](#) or [Mendeley](#).

Free Educational Technology For Proofreading

[After the Deadline](#) is a language checker for the web that checks for Contextual Spelling, Advanced Style, and Intelligent Grammar. It is a free download for most browsers and platforms that uses artificial intelligence and natural language processing technology to find writing errors and offer smart suggestions. It even explains the error and why it may be incorrect.

[Hemingway](#) makes your writing bold and clear. Put in text and see where you can simplify your pros

Free Educational Technology For Referencing

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