



Accessibility Options on your Mac Computer

There are built in capabilities on your computer that can be both useful for reading text ('text to speech') or allowing your child to speak and have their speech become text (speech to text). Each computer will be different but most will generally have the following capabilities. To access them, you need to 'turn them on'.

How to enable 'Text to Speech' for Reading Purposes:

For those challenged by reading, your computer's built in 'text to speech' capability can open up your child's reading options. By turning on this feature, any text can be highlighted by your child and be read back to them with each word highlighted as it is read. The speed of the readback can be adjusted as can the voice used.

To enable 'Text to Speech' on your computer (the computer reads the text your child highlights) you will need to get into 'Accessibility' - follow these steps:

- i. Go to 'System Preferences'
- ii. Click 'Accessibility'
- iii. Click 'Speech'
- iv. Click the button that says "Speak selected text when key is pressed" I use Command +T for Talk.

Then when you highlight a phrase and press the command, the computer will read to you!

How to enable 'Speech to Text' or "Dictation" for Writing:

To enable the 'Speech to Text' option in the regular keyboard:

- I. go to 'System Preferences'
- II. click 'Keyboards'
- III. click 'Dictation' ON Do not use Enhanced Dictation!
- IV. click on the shortcut "Press the function key twice"
- V. Then when you want to speak into your computer, press the function key two times and you can create text with your voice!