



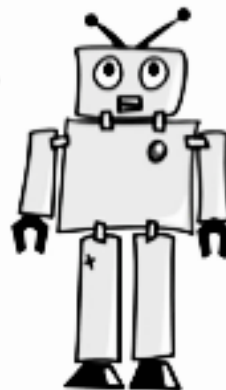
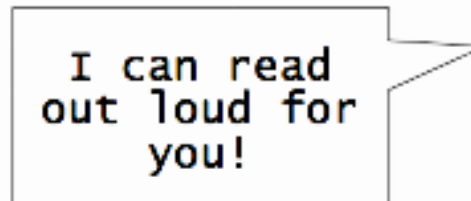
Tech Recipe: Listen to your writing!

Editing what you write is tricky, *all* writers have to look for spelling errors, check punctuation, find misused words, and make sure their writing makes sense!



Voice Feedback to the rescue!

Sit back and let your computer or tablet read to you. You will hear if you made up crazy words (typos) or if you forgot punctuation or if you put the sentences in the wrong order. You may think your computer has a funny voice, don't worry about that! You will get used to it - pretend it is your robot friend who is happy to help with your homework.



How to:

You just need to highlight the text you want to listen to and press the correct **command**. Your teacher can help you set it up and practice.

PC in MS Word: Set up "Speak" command in Quick Access Toolbar and assign a keyboard command (instructions at YouTube VIteacherjes)

Mac: Set up voice feedback from System Preferences - Dictation and Speech - Text to Speech. Check the box "Speak selected text when a key is pressed." You can now assign a key or key combination for speech feedback.



iPad/iPhone: Turn on "Speak Selection" in Settings - General - Accessibility - Speech. You can also turn on Speak Screen (Two fingers swipe down from top of screen).



Google Chrome/Docs: Get the extension Read & Write. It will add controls so you can listen back to what is written in Google Docs. It has other useful features. You need to use the pointer to press the control buttons.

You can also use ChromeVox. The nice thing about using ChromeVox is that you can use key commands which can be faster and easier than using the mouse (but key commands take practice).

Practice using arrows and shift arrows to move text cursor and to highlight text.

Turn on (or off) ChromeVox with ctrl + alt + z

Speak your highlighted selection with ctrl + alt + x.

Experiment with ChromeVox, you can have document read to you by just moving around with the arrows - see what happens. When you need to edit, use arrows and shift arrows to move by letters and words. It's fun - listen and look at the same time!

Pressing ctrl key will stop ChromeVox from speaking (it will tell you about other things on the screen so you may need to politely say, "shush, ChromeVox").

(demonstration at YouTube VItteacherjes)

Technology Word of the Day

Command - You give a command when you tell someone or something what to do. You command your dog to stop jumping up, "Sit, Rover, sit!" In computer-speak, a command is an instruction to a computer or device to do something, like "Please save my document!" Computers don't need please and thank you but it can't hurt. Try telling your computer to sit, it will listen!

Commands come in different forms.

They can be:

special words (keywords) that a program understands

function keys

choices in a menu

buttons or other objects on your screen