



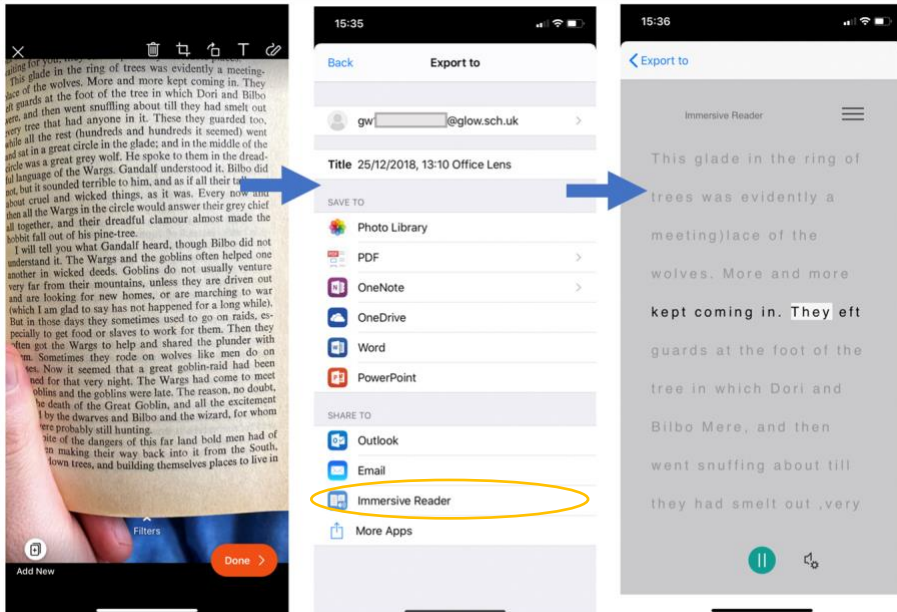
Digital Supports!

There are lots of great digital supports that can help you if you have find reading and writing a little tricky.

Reading Text in Books

Office lens is a great free app made by Microsoft. You can take a photo of printed text and make it easier to read.

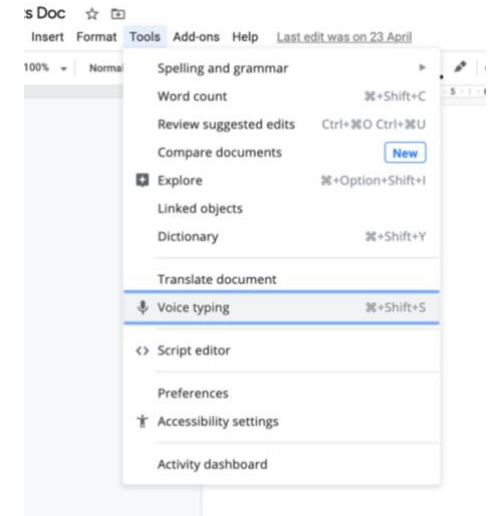
Select "immersive reader" to change the font into something easier to read, increase the font size, spacing, background colour and get it to read it to you. You can change the speed at which it reads, and it highlights the word it's reading which is helpful. The text can also be converted into a Word Document!



Excerpt from "The Hobbit" by J.R.R Tolkien, Published by George Allen & Unwin (Publishers) Ltd

Speak to Type

Google Docs has a decent speech to text function. Using the Chrome browser, go to "Tools", then "Voice typing" and a big microphone button will appear. Click to start recording. It understands the Scottish accent very well. You have to speak punctuation like an American, so say "period" instead of "full stop". It might not get everything you say perfectly, but it could be a good starting point for getting thoughts down.



Of course, **Read and Write** also has a great speech to text function if you're not wanting to work in Google Docs.

Touch Typing

It's a good to practise typing so that trying to find the letter you need on the keyboard isn't going to slow you down! It's a skill that will be helpful throughout life and there's a couple of websites to make that more fun.



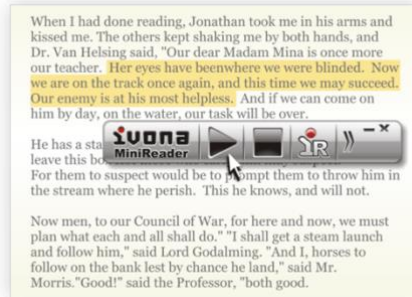
BBC Dance Mat is very colourful and has singing animated animals to encourage you.



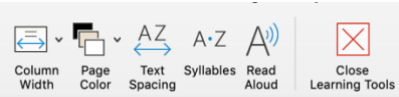
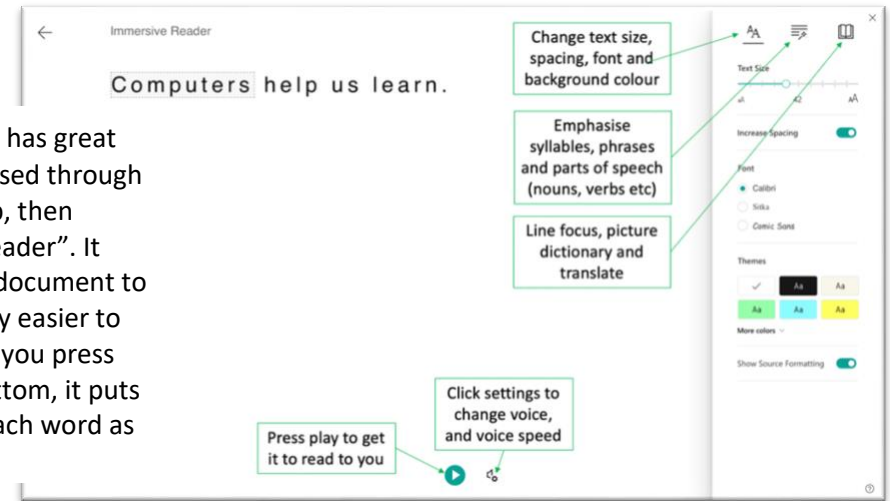
Typing Club is a similar but isn't as young looking. You can earn stars and badges as you go. You have to create a login, which means you can track your progress.

Reading Text on the Computer

Ivona Minireader is the text to speech software we use in school. It's [free to download](#), very simple to use and you can get a nice Scottish voice to read to you. Any text that you can select (highlight) with your mouse, be it on a Word Document, Power Point, PDF or webpage, it can speak back to you.



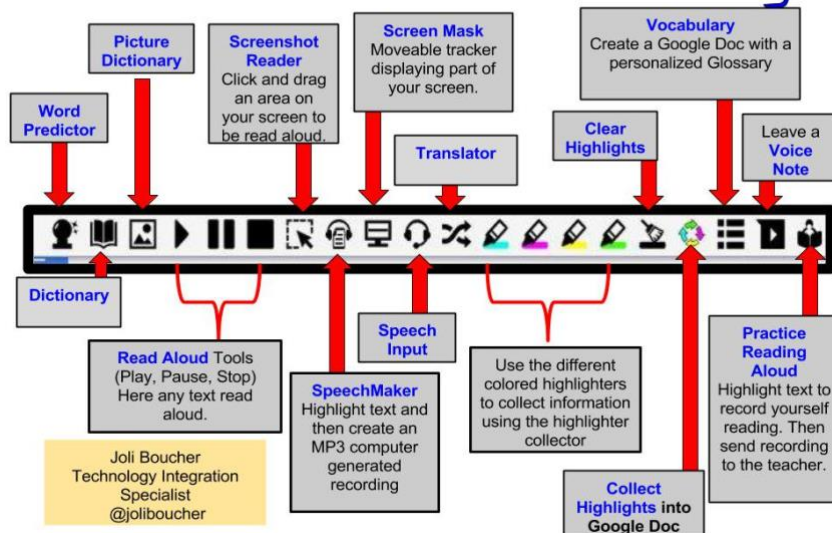
Word Online has great features accessed through the "View" tab, then "Immersive Reader". It simplifies the document to make it visually easier to take in. When you press play at the bottom, it puts a box round each word as it reads.



Word on the computer has a few of these features. Go to the "View" menu, then "Learning Tools".

Read and Write is fantastic! It is on all of the school computers and Chromebooks. If you're using your own computer, log into the Google Chrome with your "gw..." email. Click the purple jigsaw piece in the toolbar to see and use the bar below!

Read and Write for Google



Built in Features

There are several text to speech tools on **iOS (Apple)** devices. On iOS 13 you can find them in Settings > Accessibility > Spoken Content. Speak Selection lets you select some text and have it read out while Speak Screen reads the whole screen.

Android devices have Select to Speak: use your finger to draw a rectangle round the text you want and tap Play. Go to Settings app > Accessibility > Select to Speak. Apps can be downloaded if option isn't there.

Chromebooks' built-in Select and Speak facility can be unreliable. Highlight the text and press the Search key and it will be read out. Go to Settings > Advanced > Accessibility > Manage accessibility features > text-to-speech > Enable Select to Speech.

The built-in Text to Speech on a **Mac** is accessed through the Dictation and Speech (or just Speech) in System Preferences. You can customise how you use it.

Windows 10 has Narrator in the Ease of Access settings, but it's a screen reader rather than a text reader, so it generally reads out more than you want. Other options are better.

The advice on built in features came from [Call Scotland](#). Visit their website for more help.