
TheyMayNotKnow.com
 WEBINAR SERIES

UNLOCKING THE POWER OF TECH FOR READING

7/19/23

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www.innovativespeech.com

Accessibility Check


- ❖ You are muted 
- ❖ We can't see you 
- ❖ Close extra tabs and refresh if problems 
- ❖ Log out and in again as needed
- ❖ Live captioning enabled 
- ❖ Everyone will have access to on-demand recording- 2 weeks- you'll get an email from joan@innovativespeech.com with a link

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What reading challenges are you looking to support with tech?


3

Reading Challenges



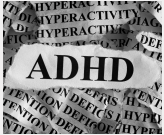
Specific Learning Disability- Dyslexia

Low Vision/
Visual-perceptual problems




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Reading Challenges




Difficulty Managing Attention




Different primary language

5

Reading Challenges



I/DD- Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities



Brain Injury/ Stroke/ Cognitive Decline

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Reading Challenges

- Decoding- sounding out words
- Word recognition
- Slow reading speed
- Connecting words, sentences and paragraphs in a meaningful way
- Understanding main ideas and making inferences.



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Reading Challenges

- Retaining information from text
- Spelling
- Letter order, reversing letters or confusing similar letters
- Tracking and skipping lines
- Processing information while reading
- Making connections to text

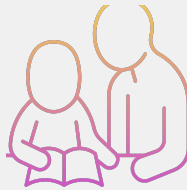


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Instructional Intervention to build reading skills

There are different types of reading specialists to assist! More resources are included at the end of the presentation.


- It's important to know what is causing the difficulty.
- Many specialists are on this webinar.
- Feel free to share your info in chat.
- Private messaging is enabled



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This new generation of tech is amazing!



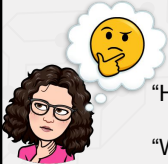
Learn what's possible 

Match a person's needs with tech features

Adapt and change as needed

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New Tech Mindset



"How can tech help me read better?"

"What can I do to help someone I know to better understand written content?"

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Computers



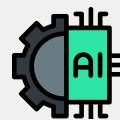
Tablets



Smartphones



Browsers-extensions/add-ons



Artificial Intelligence



Digital Pens

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Joan Green- Your Tech Advisor

www.innovativespeech.com

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Free Webinar Series- TheyMayNotKnow.com

Dedicated to the memory of my wonderful brother Robert (Bob) Lipman (5/18/61-3/27/20)

Shout out to my parents, Leah and Allan Lipman, who inspire me to keep on offering these free webinars. It's been 6 years!

Picture taken at my parents' 60th wedding anniversary in 2017

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UDL- Universal Design CAST.org

<https://www.cast.org/about/about-cast>

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Great Websites to explore accessibility options

Google- <https://www.google.com/accessibility/>

Apple- <https://www.apple.com/accessibility/>

Microsoft- <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/accessibility>

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Compensatory strategies

As people of all ages strive to improve reading skills, it is important that they be shown how to access the information another way.

We don't want to create a situation where struggling readers fall further behind.

Let's set them up for independence.

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Tech Tip #1- Use Text to Speech

- It's a feature on all computers, phones and tablets!
- Voices have come a long way

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All devices can read aloud for free!

The process depends on:

- the device,
- operating system,
- format of the material

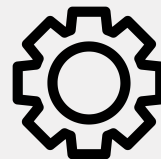


It can get complicated.

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Tech Tip #2- Customize Read Aloud Settings

- Chromebook
- PC Computer and tablet
- Mac Computer
- iPhone and iPad
- Android phone and tablets- ie Samsung Galaxy, Pixel
- Microsoft Word
- Google Docs



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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-gz4iXWDzTQ>
5 min YouTube video on Chromebook channel



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Chromebook- Select- to- Speak

On demand text-to-speech

Listen to text read aloud while reading with your eyes

Need to enable in system settings:

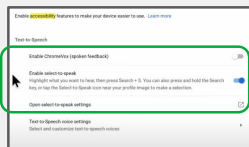
- Click the clock on the bottom right
- Accessibility
- Manage Accessibility features
- Enable Select to speak



I find it much easier to use a mouse than touchpad. It might be a generational thing!

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Chromebook- Select- to- Speak



1. Highlight words to be read aloud
2. Select Search + S
3. Customize voice, speed, highlighting etc.



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Microsoft 365

Immersive Reader

- Reads text aloud with highlighting
- Help with focus and attention
- Use the view menu




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Windows

Microsoft Word

How to use Immersive Reader

Microsoft Support

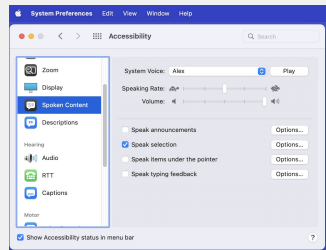



<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/immersive-reader-in-word-881749f1-d11a-4d07-877c-6d4af093c1>

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Read aloud- Mac


- Apple menu > system preferences> Accessibility> Speak selected text when the key is pressed
- Option + Esc

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iDevices- Iphones and iPads

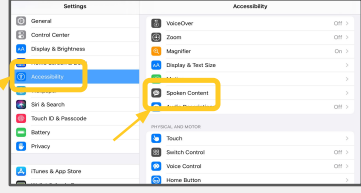
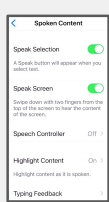
Speak Selection Speak Screen



- Settings > Accessibility > Spoken Content
- Speak selection**- select text then touch "speak"
- Speak screen**- swipe down with two fingers from the top of the screen and then press play (use assistive touch)


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Accessibility Features- iPhone and iPad

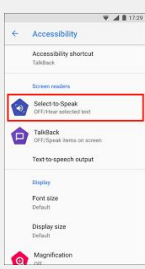



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Android phones (i.e Samsung, Pixel, Motorola)






- Android 11 and up
- Settings > accessibility> Select to Speak
- If doesn't work- go to Google Play store and download the Android Accessibility Suite
- Turn on Select to Speak Shortcut (2 finger swipe up) or 3 finger swipe if TalkBack is on, or tap the accessibility button
- Tap Play



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Tip #3- Optimize the view




Google Chrome Microsoft Edge Apple Safari

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Enhance Readability- Declutter the screen

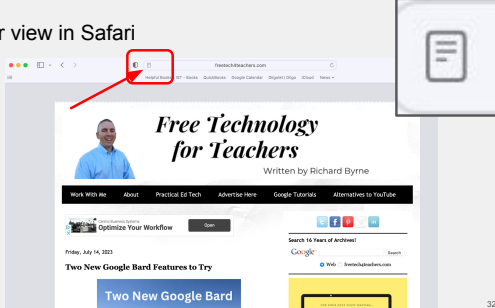
Reader View
(not available for all websites)

- Built into Safari, Edge, and Firefox
- You may need to enable it in settings
- Remove ads
- Adjust font size and type
- Customize color

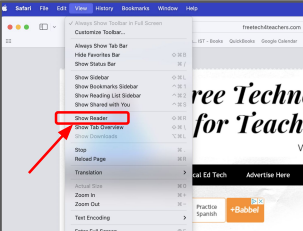
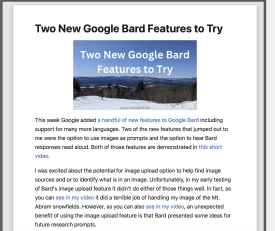
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Reader view in Safari



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Safari





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Tech Tip #4- Try Browser extensions & Add-ons

Add functionality to your browser

- **Google Chrome web store**
<https://chrome.google.com/webstore/category/extensions>
- **Microsoft Edge Add-ons,**
<https://microsoftedge.microsoft.com/addons/Microsoft-Edge-Extensions-Home>
- **Safari Extensions,**
Open Safari and choose Safari > Safari Extensions from the menu bar



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De-clutter with Postlight Reader (formerly Mercury Reader)

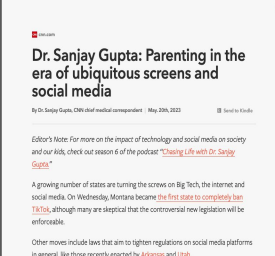
<https://www.cnn.com/2023/05/20/health/parenting-social-media-screens-ocpia-wellness/index.html>



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Decluttering the screen can help!

- Chrome- Postlight Reader Extension
- <https://reader.postlight.com/>



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Color Gradients can help

Beeline Reader
<https://www.beeline reader.com/>

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Microsoft Edge Add-ons

Force Reading Mode
 teekamsuthar.com
 ★★★★★ (1) | 326 Users | Productivity

BeeLine Reader
 ★★★★★ (5) | BeeLine Reader
 BeeLine's color gradient makes reading faster/easier for over 90% of people.

DeepL Translate: Reading & writing translator
 ★★★★★ (252) | DeepL SE
 Translate while you read and write with DeepL. Translate, the world's most accurate translator.

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Edge Add-Ons

Read Aloud: A Text to Speech Voice Reader
 ★★★★★ (71) | LSD Software
 Read aloud the current web-page article with one click, using text to speech (TTS). Supports 40+ languages.

Text reader (text to speech)
 ★★★★★ (19) | Readme Text To Speech TTS
 AI-powered text-to-speech. Compatible with webpages, e-books, PDFs, and more. Summarize any webpage or...

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Read and Write by Texthelp- Extension

- The text to speech and translate features are free forever.
- Works in **Chrome, Edge** and **Safari** browsers
- Read online accessible content and Google Docs
- Mac, PC and Chromebooks
- Free for teachers
- Read aloud functions free forever for everyone
- Premium version- \$150/ year for individual
- Special school pricing
- There is also a work version
- <https://www.texthelp.com/products/read-and-write-education/>

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Getting started with Read&Write Extension

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4CdmlWiIN0U&t=13s> by Texthelp 3 min video

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More Chrome Extensions (Productivity, reading, writing)

Read Aloud
 Bee Line Reader
 Grammarly
 Mole
 OutNote
 Equatio
 Save to Google Drive
 Tab Limiter
 AdBlock
 Forest
 StayFocused
 Marinara: Pomodoro Assistant

- Explore the Chrome web store.
- Warning- They don't all work nicely together.
- You can control which ones are active.
- Most schools will control which extensions are available to students.

<https://chrome.google.com/webstore>

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Tech Tip #5

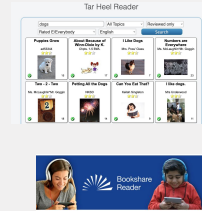
Explore Digital Libraries



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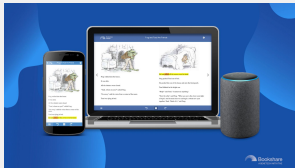
Digital Libraries

- **Tarheel Reader**- books for beginner readers of all ages- <https://tarheelreader.org/>
- **Bookshare**- free- need documented "print disability", <https://www.bookshare.org/cms/>
- **Learning Ally**- human narration- need documented "print disability" <https://learningally.org/>



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Bookshare Reader- New and Free



- Listen to books in high quality audio
- Follow along with highlighted text
- Adjust reading speed, font size, and colors
- Navigate by page and chapter
- Bookmark your reading spot
- Stop reading and pick up from your last spot
- On computer- Read MathML
- On Smartphones- can read offline
- For adults who qualify- \$79.99 a year
- Work with several state NLS libraries

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Bookshare Reader
Go to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z1nX_U77dq for a 4 min video to get started using it.

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Learning Ally

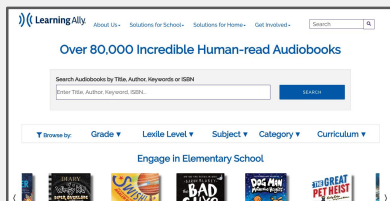
<https://learningally.org/>

Need to qualify with print disability

\$135 a year/ individual

School pricing available

Human narration



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Digital and Audio Books

Libby- free audiobooks from library

- <https://www.overdrive.com/apps/libby>



Khan Academy Kids- Free

- <https://learn.khanacademy.org/khan-academy-kids/> (ages 2-7)



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More digital libraries

Epic! Kids' books and videos- <https://www.getepic.com/>

- K-5, over 40,000 books, audiobooks and learning videos
- 7 day free trial- then \$11.99 a month for families

Learning A-Z, Raz-Kids,
<https://www.learning-a-z.com/site/products/raz-kids/overview>


- K-5
- 2,000+ digital leveled ebooks- 29 levels. Quizzes
- \$128 for one year



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Tech Tip #6 Scan words around you

What about paper based content?
 Individuals may need them scanned and digitized.



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Schools or work sites many need to provide digital version or scan paper and convert into accessible PDFs or EPUB files for people with reading disabilities.


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Scanning tools

Apple Notes App
 Notes > Camera > Scan Document > Keep scan > Save > Upload/Share

<https://youtu.be/16nwB3P78GQ>

Upload into Google Drive for OCR- to make accessible



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More ways to scan documents

VDSscan (Formerly Voice Dream Scanner),
<https://www.voicedream.com/scanner/>- includes OCR \$9.99
<https://www.voicedream.com/>

Works well with Voice Dream Reader- <https://www.voicedream.com/>

Microsoft Lens- PDF Scanner- Free

- Scan handouts and annotate them in Word and OneNote
- Scan handwritten notes to digitize and edit later (works with English only)
- Take a picture of the whiteboard or blackboard to reference later, even if you're offline
- Keep class notes and your own research organized with the seamless integration with OneNote

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Microsoft Lens

<https://youtu.be/P54FnJJqjA>



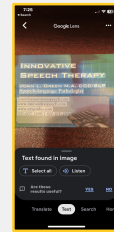
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Google Lens

This app uses the camera on a tablet or smartphone

On iOS use the Google app and tap on the Lens icon.

Take a picture of text and it reads it out loud immediately! It can also translate.



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Google Lens- Read anything aloud for free!

<https://youtu.be/HmwhC582EJM?e=22>

- Works in real time
- Read aloud anything you see- menu, street signs, medicine labels
- Copy Text
- Translate



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Tech Tip #7 Listen to and Annotate on PDF Readers

Accessible vs Inaccessible PDFs

If worksheets are scanned, use a tool to make them accessible (OCR)

Don't just take a picture and upload- use a scanning app.

Need to be able to select text.

Consider ePub format



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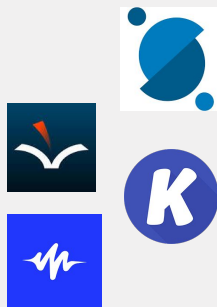
PDF Readers

Orbit Note by Text Help- (Formerly PDF Reader)
<https://www.texthelp.com/products/orbitnote/>

Voice Dream Reader by Voice Dream - works with many file types- <https://www.voicedream.com/>

Kami- <https://www.kamiapp.com/>

Speechify-<https://speechify.com/>



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VDScanner and Voice Dream Reader App

<https://youtu.be/2OZ6zCB5qIM>



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Tip #8 Summarize written content

- Not a substitute for reading- but may help with comprehension
- Use with caution
- Can often adjust how long the summary needs to be
- Helpful for scanning articles to figure out what to spend time reading.



Read&Write Extension by texthelp- has a summary tool

On the toolbar



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Chat GPT

<https://chat.openai.com/>

Create a free account if you don't have one.

- Summarize the text below into 500 words or less.
- Summarize the text below into one paragraph appropriate for a 7th grader.
- Please summarize this video for me. Here's the YouTube link, (insert link) and the title is: [copy and paste the title of the video]

ChatGPT may produce inaccurate information about people, places or things. © 2022 OpenAI. All rights reserved.

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ChatGPT

I pasted in Wikipedia info about dyslexia <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dyslexia>

"Summarize this text so that it can be understood by a 5th grader"

Dyslexia is a learning disability that makes reading difficult. People with dyslexia have trouble spelling words, reading quickly, and understanding what they read. It's something that some people are born with, and it can run in families. Dyslexia is caused by a combination of genes and the environment. It's not related to problems with hearing or vision or not being taught properly.

To help people with dyslexia, teachers can use different teaching methods that meet their needs. While there is no cure for dyslexia, these methods can help reduce the impact of the symptoms. It's important to remember that dyslexia doesn't mean a person is not smart or doesn't want to learn.

Dyslexia is the most common learning disability and affects about 3-7% of the population. However, as many as 20% of people may have some degree of dyslexia symptoms. It's more often diagnosed in boys, but it can affect both boys and girls equally. Dyslexia can co-occur with other learning disorders like ADHD or auditory processing disorder.

Scientists have been studying dyslexia to understand its causes. They have found differences in the brains of people with dyslexia, especially in areas involved in reading. There may also be genetic factors involved. The complexity of the language a person learns can also affect dyslexia.

Dyslexia can be diagnosed through tests that assess memory, vision, spelling, and reading skills. Early intervention and support can help children with dyslexia improve their reading abilities. While dyslexia can present challenges, it's important to remember that individuals with dyslexia can also have unique strengths and talents.

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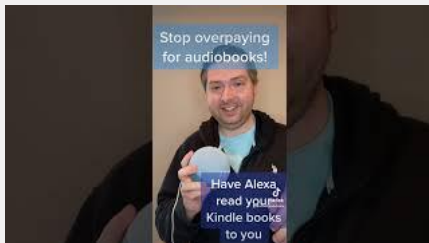
Tech Tip #9 Talk to Smart Assistants



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Smart Assistants

Use Alexa to Listen to Kindle Books



<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/j0yCjwH120s>

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Tech Tip #10 Try Digital Reading and Scanning Pens



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Scanmarker Air

Digital Highlighter



- Slide across print and see it transfer print to text on your device's screen
- OCR can translate into 60 different languages
- Listen to text read aloud
- Connect by Bluetooth or dongle
- Mac, Windows, Android and IOS, not Chromebooks
- Dictionary
- <https://scanmarker.com/>, \$149.00

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Scanmarker Air

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/Zc2VmmB7y0M>



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C-Pen Connect



- Mac, PC and Linux compatible
- C-Pen Connect- Chrome extension to scan text into an open tab in Chrome Browser
- <https://www.cpenconnect.com/>
- \$130.00

C-Pen Connect

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b4EKd9WsqNw>



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C-Pen Reader 2



- <https://www.scanningpens.com/ReaderPenUS/>
- \$295.00
- There is also a version for exams
- Windows and Mac



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C-Pen Reader 2



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G3pxutd6KtQ>

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Digital Pens- Help taking notes, reading textbooks and more

If interested in exploring additional tech tools to take notes, stay organized and efficient and scan books and send info into a document- check out one of the courses below.

Get Going with Google in 2023- A self-paced online course for beginners and beyond.
<https://innovativespeech.com/get-going-with-google-course>

Online course- Explore Note-Taking Options
<https://pages.innovativespeech.com/note-taking-course>



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Just one or two small changes may make all the difference



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Be sure to check out all the resources!

International Dyslexia Association, <https://dyslexiaida.org/>

Decoding Dyslexia Groups- <https://dyslexiaida.org/decoding-dyslexia/Understood.org->

<https://www.understood.org/en/articles/treatment-for-kids-with-dyslexia>

Learning Disabilities Association of America-

<https://ldaamerica.org/resources/state-resources/>

American Optometric Association- Low Vision and Vision Rehab

<https://www.aoa.org>

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More Resources

LDAMC- Learning Disabilities Association of Montgomery County- <https://ldamc.org/>

Daniela Feldhausen- Kids up Reading Coaches-

<https://www.kidsupreadingcoaches.com/>

Speech-language pathologists-

<https://find.asha.org/pro>

Educational Therapists- <https://www.aetonline.org/>

Vision Specialists- Ophthalmologists, vision therapists

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Potential resources

CALL Scotland

Wheel of Apps-

<https://www.callscotland.org.uk/downloads/posters-and-leaflets/>

- iPad short guides to support reading and writing-

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLm6eaiPINXOwTttnxnIV7R-yA1X7GZ>

iPad Apps for Learners with Dyslexia/
Reading and Writing Difficulties



Version 2, April 2023 CALL Scotland, The University of Edinburgh.
CALL Scotland is part funded by the Scottish Government.
An electronic version of this chart can be downloaded from:
<https://www.callscotland.org.uk/downloads/posters-and-leaflets>



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PACER Center- Simon Technology Center

Free webinars

Choosing Reading Tools to Match Reading Material,
May 15, 2023

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i_hAZVW0w9Y

Tools and Resources for Students with Dyslexia,
2/15/23

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8AqBQZ2gXnl>



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How can these tools help?

What's one new thing you learned today that you want to explore further?



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Free Private Facebook Group - IST Tech Savvy Solutions



Let's help each other. Everyone is welcome to join!!
Just answer a few questions

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ISTTechSavvySolutions/>

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The next webinar in the TheyMayNotKnow.com series

iGrandparent 101- Resources and Tips for teaching tech to seniors- join to learn from an expert panel!

8/9/23 1:00- 2:00 PM ET



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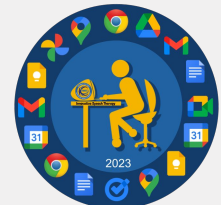
Google Apps

[Google Docs](#)

[Google Drive](#)

[Google Calendar](#)

[Google Keep](#)



[Get Going with Google in 2023! Online Course](#)

Email Joan for a special discount code

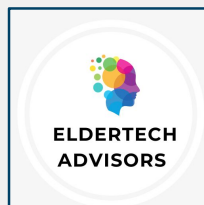
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ElderTech Advisor Training and Groups Now Forming

Let's join forces to help aging adults.

Registration will open soon for Fall Cohort complete this form

<https://forms.gle/UwoGGeWQ4fjJ56hF9>



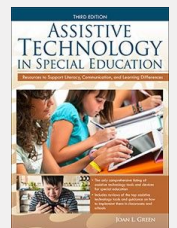
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Technology and Strategies to Improve Reading Comprehension

My latest book: Chapters 7

Assistive Technology in Special Education, Resources to Support Literacy, Communication and Learning Differences, 3rd edition, 2018

- Features
- Text to speech
- Optical Character recognition
- Advanced Text Readers with Reading, Writing and Studying Tools
- Alternative Reading Formats, Interactive Websites and Apps with Accessible Books
- Portable eBook Readers
- Handheld devices that Read Aloud



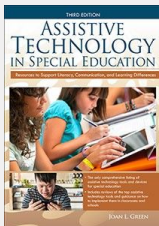
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Drill-and-Practice Technology to Improve Reading Skills

My latest book: Chapter 8

Assistive Technology in Special Education, Resources to Support Literacy, Communication and Learning Differences, 3rd edition, 2018

- Interactive Software and Apps with Activities to Improve Reading
- Online Programs
- Mobile Apps to Improve Language-Based Reading Deficits
- Software for Vision-Based Reading Deficits



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Let's stay in touch!

Joan Lipman Green

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Joan@innovativespeech.com

Facebook- Innovative.Speech.Therapy

FB Group- IST Tech Savvy Solutions

LinkedIn- Joan Lipman Green

Twitter- @jgreenslp

Instagram- joanlipmangreen



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