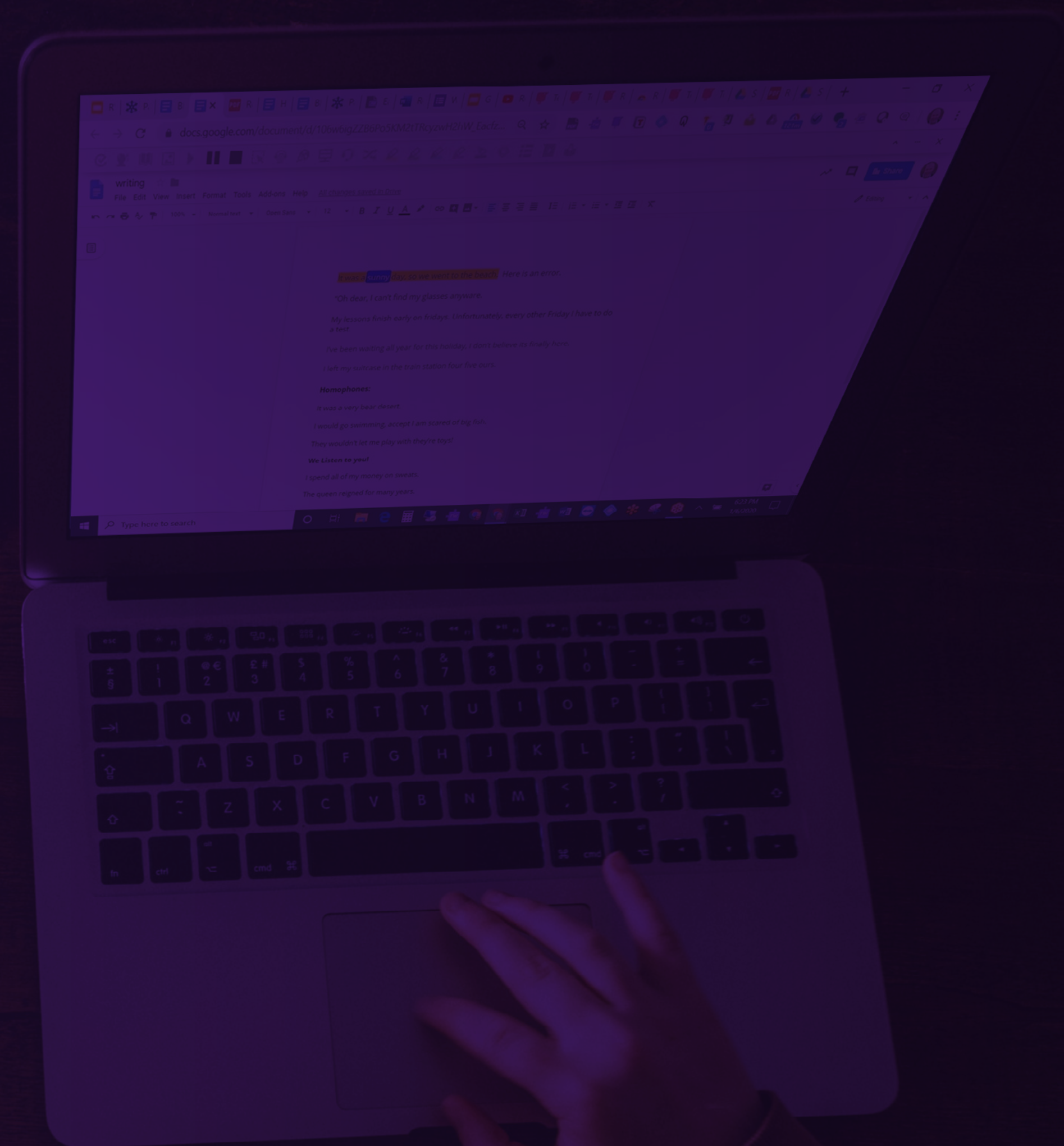




Supporting SEN learners with Read&Write

This guide explains how different features of Read&Write literacy software can be helpful for students with certain additional learning needs.





What is Read&Write?



Proven to help learners improve their quality of reading and writing, Read&Write is a literacy toolbar with features to support students with additional learning difficulties in class, at home, during revision and in exams (where appropriate access arrangements are in place).

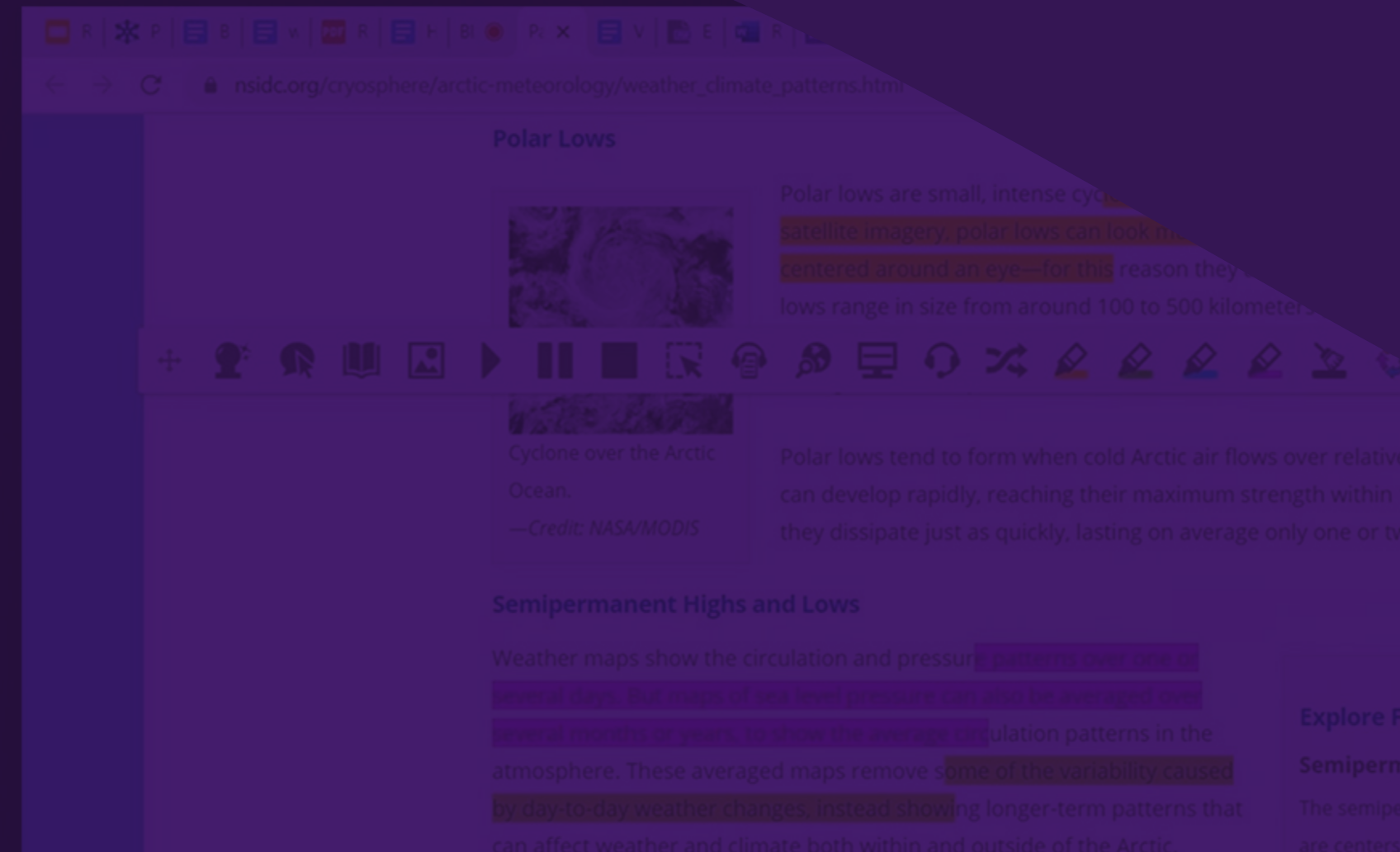
Designed to support various learning styles, Read&Write includes features like text-to-speech, translation, audio and picture dictionaries, text prediction, grammar and punctuation checkers and smart highlighters to help students with independent study and revision.

Working seamlessly with virtually any kind of educational content - such as websites, Microsoft Word files, PDFs and Google docs - Read&Write helps to ensure the curriculum is accessible to all learners.



This guide explains how different features of Read&Write literacy software can be helpful for students with certain additional learning needs including:

- **Reading and writing difficulties** - students with dyslexia, dyspraxia or dyscalculia
- **Mental health problems** - students with anxiety, OCD, stress, ADHD/ADD and working memory difficulty
- **Visual impairment** - this also includes students with visual stress
- **Motion and dexterity** - students who have difficulty with motion and dexterity skills
- **Hearing impairment** - students with hearing impairments



Learning need

Reading and writing difficulties

How Read&Write helps

Text-to-speech with highlighting

- Assists students with cognitive difficulties by providing auditory support. For example text-to-speech is a useful tool as students can hear what they've written and rectify any mistakes that they may have missed if they were reading themselves.
- Hearing and seeing the words can increase word recognition.
- Students can hear what is being read aloud and track the words on screen with dual coloured highlighting, helping them to process the information more efficiently.
- Improves auditory reading speed and productivity as listening to information supports more efficient auditory memory.

Check It

- Check It is a dyslexic phonetic spell checker that helps to solve complex spelling and grammar mistakes, to improve the quality and accuracy of a written piece of work and promote independent, autonomous working.
- When highlighting an error, Read&Write offers an example contextual sentence to allow the student to make an informed decision on what suggestion is appropriate for the error.
- For a student, receiving a first draft of work back with a lot of spelling and grammar corrections can be discouraging, but Check It helps improve self-assessment before submission.

Learning need

Reading and writing difficulties

How Read&Write helps

Prediction

- Supports the construction of contextually correct sentences.
- Expands students' vocabulary through the provision of language. This is particularly beneficial for students with dyslexia who self-limit their vocabulary.
- Students can concentrate on the context of their work rather than struggle with spelling, helping them to produce error-free documents and assignments.
- Recognises the student's style of writing for future recall.

Screen masking

- Can be altered to specific prescription colours, providing a helpful screen tint.
- Screen masking can be used with the reading ruler which aids tracking when reading large bodies of text. This supports students with cognitive load difficulties, by narrowing their focus to individual paragraphs.
- Specifically helps students with Irlen Syndrome, a perceptual processing disorder which affects the brain's ability to process visual information. This can also be referred to as Meares-Irlen Syndrome, Scotopic Sensitivity Syndrome, or Visual Stress.

Learning need

How Read&Write helps

Reading and writing difficulties

Dictionaries

- Dictionary definitions, which can be read aloud, help students to quickly look up the meaning of a word.
- The advanced dictionary offers grammar assistance and thesaurus support, supporting the student in thinking around the subject.
- For students with dyslexia, dictionaries support those with short term working memory who may forget the meaning of previously known words.
- The picture dictionary provides the student with a consistent visual representation of a word across all classes, to help with memory recall.

Highlighters

- A useful research tool allowing students to collect and collate information from the internet and documents, which then automatically creates a bibliography upon collection, without the need to note down complicated web addresses.
- Students can colour code pieces of work for easier processing of information.

Scan

- Allows students to convert inaccessible documents, for example PDFs, to an accessible format. These can then be read with Read&Write, highlights can be collected and audio files can be created.

Learning need

Reading and writing difficulties

How Read&Write helps

Talk&Type

- Speech-to-text helps students who struggle using a keyboard to create error-free documents verbally.
- Provides dictation support, helping those who have difficulty with constructing sentences and writing, so they can instead focus on the quality and context of what they are writing.

Research folder

- Provides one central repository where students can categorise and store work for those with poor organisational skills.

Audio maker

- Supports auditory learners as this feature allows students to convert large volumes of text to an audible format, reducing the stress of reading large volumes of text.
- Many students on the dyslexia and neurodiversity spectrum prefer, or need, to hear information rather than traditionally read.
- Audio files are portable and can be transferred to any device to study on the go.
- Improves speed, productivity and effectiveness for those who struggle with reading.

Learning need

Reading and writing difficulties

How Read&Write helps

Vocabulary list

- Students can create their own word lists to help with memory recall, which is particularly useful during revision or when being introduced to a new subject area.
- Allows students to create vocabulary lists with both visual and auditory support.

Similar word checker

- Students can easily identify homophone errors and ensure words are used in the correct context, which is very helpful for students with dyslexia.
- Homophones are an area of difficulty due to sounding the same from an auditory learning perspective.

Learning need

Mental health problems

How Read&Write helps

Prediction

- For students who experience anxiety or stress when typing, the prediction feature learns the student's writing style and recognises the words used most often and suggests those first.

Screen masking

- Screen masking improves working memory and helps students to concentrate by focussing on smaller amounts of text. Poor levels of concentration is a prevalent symptom in many mental health conditions.
- Screen masking can be used with the reading ruler which aids tracking when reading large bodies of text. This supports students with cognitive load difficulties by narrowing the focus to individual paragraphs.

Scan, screenshot reader, PDF aloud

- If students have trouble accessing inaccessible documents, Read&Write's clever scanning feature, screenshot reader and PDF tools can help them convert inaccessible documents to an accessible format. These can then be read with Read&Write, highlights can be collected and audio files can be created.

Check It

- With Check It, students can use an accurate grammar, spelling and homophone checker when completing assignments, enabling them to feel confident when submitting work and reducing stress.

Learning need

Mental health problems

How Read&Write helps

Highlighters

- Highlighters in Read&Write help students easily collate and reference their work, helping them to feel less stressed and overwhelmed when undertaking a large piece of work.
- In the same way as paper based work, categorising with highlighter colours aids organisational skills and helps the student to feel less stressed as they won't feel disorganised.

Research folder

- For students who feel stressed or anxious when processing large amounts of information, the research folder helps by providing one central repository where students can organise, save and reference content. This prevents students feeling disorganised or overwhelmed.

Toolbar

- The Read&Write toolbar is fully customisable to the individual student's needs. It can show only the required features and can be presented in an order that best suits the individual. Tailoring the toolbar to contain what is actually required is easier for the student to process, as there are fewer features to learn, making it less stressful.

Vocabulary list

- The vocabulary list allows key course phrases and terms to be collected and displayed in one place, which is a great point of reference for students with poor working memory. Poor concentration and working memory can greatly hamper the ability to learn.

Learning need

Visual impairment and visual stress

How Read&Write helps

Screen masking

- Screen masking helps students with visual stress as they can use customisable coloured overlays on screen. An RGB prescription colour can be identified via an ophthalmic test for those with visual stress, this prescription can then be applied via screen masking.
- Using screen masking with the reading ruler helps students with visual impairments as it narrows their focus to individual paragraphs.
- Not having to rely on physical screens also helps remove any stigma for students with visual impairments.

Audio maker

- The audio maker tool allows all hard copy and inaccessible content to be converted into an audio file. This is beneficial for those students who find viewing text problematic or impossible.

Highlighters

- A useful research tool allowing students to collect and collate information from the internet and documents which then automatically creates a bibliography upon collection.
- Once research is collected, the colour coding in the end document creates the correct level of contrast for those with visual impairments or visual stress.

Simplify

- This feature can be used to remove any distractions on webpages, meaning those with visual disturbances have less flickering, making it a lot easier for them to see text and other important content.



**Learning
need**

How Read&Write helps

**Visual
impairment
and visual
stress**

Voice notes

- For visually impaired students who may struggle to use a keyboard or view a computer screen, voice notes can be used to record a short audio file of the student’s voice. This can then be inserted directly into Microsoft Word documents as a comment.
- Students can use this tool to review their work, adding voice amendments rather than written.
- Verbal/auditory notes can enable more effective communication between students and teachers, in comparison to written feedback which a student may struggle to read.

Vocabulary table

- This tool helps students create tables displaying key phrases in an easily digestible format. By using the vocabulary list with text only, content can be read aloud, helping students who struggle with reading text on screen.

Learning need

How Read&Write helps

Hearing impairment

Text-to-speech

- Due to the visual element created with dual coloured highlighting, students who are hearing impaired can track and follow content easily.

Prediction

- The prediction tool helps students to visually recognise the words they need if they can't hear them read aloud. Students can also open the picture dictionary to enhance the visual support.

Learning need

Motion and dexterity

How Read&Write helps

Voice note

- Voice notes are a great way for students to leave notes in a document without having to type, or print.
- Where a physical disability or manual dexterity issue exists, voice note supports the student in responding and completing work without external support from a teacher or teaching assistant.
- Students can use the voice note feature as a self-reviewing tool, whilst working on assignments, adding voice amendments rather than written.

Simplify

- Removes ads and other content on web pages that can be distracting, making it easier for a student with dexterity issues to navigate.

Text-to-speech and Audio Maker

- Where a physical disability or manual dexterity issue exists, students may not be able to sit or work in one position at a screen. By using text-to-speech, students can listen to course content being read aloud, rather than reading from a screen. With audio maker, students can create audio files of text to facilitate greater mobility when studying.

Scan

- The scanning feature means students can convert hard copies of text and documents into digital versions, which cuts down on the volume of paper and books they have to carry around school. Where a physical disability or manual dexterity issue exists, any additional weight can often impact on general ease of movement and transport.

Hear what others are saying...

Charlie Love

Education Support Officer,
Aberdeen City Council

Read&Write gives us a single solution covering early years through to older students. As a local education authority, it has also allowed us to benefit from some very attractive economies of scale in terms of deployment, support and administration.

I would recommend Read&Write because it can support far more students than is feasibly possible with human support, for less money too. Teachers can rely on Read&Write to support students with dyslexia, EAL learners or those with small gaps in their learning, allowing them to concentrate their time on those who require more complex support.

Victoria Schoenhofen,
Specialist Support Teacher
at South Lanarkshire Council



Read&Write is free for teachers

Read&Write is free for school teachers, allowing you to get to know the software and understand the many ways it can help your SEN students to read, write and understand curriculum content with greater ease and confidence.

Whether it's in the traditional classroom environment or when learning at home or online, Read&Write offers support for everyday tasks, helping to foster independence and boost confidence for all learners.

To get Read&Write, visit:
text.help/SEN-teachers

