An Assessor's guide to Read&Write

This guide explains how Read&Write software can be helpful for students on campus with disabilities.

To get your Assessor copy, please visit:
text.help/dsa-solutions

texthelp®

Read&Write
supports for learners with disabilities

The Read&Write toolbar provides a wide range of literacy supports to students with disabilities such as dyslexia, learning disabilities, ADHD, mental health, visual disabilities, Autism Spectrum Disorder, and other disabilities giving them the tools they need to boost their confidence and enhance their learning experience when:

- writing essays and assignments
- reading or conducting research
- drafting emails to professors and fellow students
- using the web and online forms

Breakdown of needs covered

- **Reading & writing difficulties -** including dyslexia, dyspraxia and dysgraphia
- **Mental health problems -** including anxiety, depression, OCD and stress
- **Visual impairment -** including blurred vision, visual stress, Irlen Syndrome, poor visual acuity and retinal migraines
- **Motion and dexterity -** including repetitive strain injury, fine motor control issues, and difficulty sitting at a desk
- **Cognition & sensory processing -** including ASD, ADHD/ADD, epilepsy, fatigue
- **Hearing impairment**

Did you know?

DSA Read&Write licences include OrbitNote, our PDF editor, and AutoCorrect, an automatic spelling correction tool.

Read&Write

Reading and writing challenges

(including dyslexia, dyspraxia or dyscalculia)

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.

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.

Hearing and seeing the words can increase word recognition.

Check It

Check It is a phonetic spell checker that helps to solve complex spelling and grammar mistakes, to improve the quality and accuracy of a written piece of work.

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.

Promotes independent, autonomous working.

< Take a tour

Reading and writing challenges

(including dyslexia, dyspraxia or dyscalculia)

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.

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.

Students can colour code pieces of work for easier processing of information.
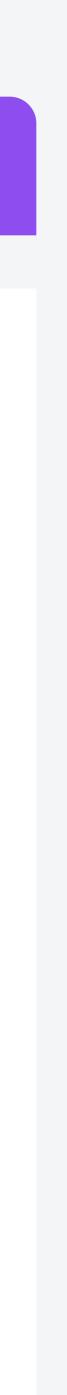
Screen Masking

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.

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Reading and writing challenges

(including dyslexia, dyspraxia or dyscalculia)

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.

Dictionaries support those with short term working memory or dyslexia who may forget the meaning of previously known words.

The picture dictionary provides the student with a visual representation of a word, to help with memory recall.

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.

Scan

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

As many university level texts can be inaccessible, students can scan hard copy texts such as textbooks, into accessible PDF, Microsoft Word Documents, EPUB and HTML formats.representation of a word, to help with memory recall.

Vocabulary list

Students can create their own word lists to help with memory recall, which is particularly useful during revision.

Allows students to create vocabulary lists with both visual and auditory support.

< Take a tour

Learning needs

Reading and writing challenges

(including dyslexia, dyspraxia or dyscalculia)

How Read&Write Helps

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 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.

Research folder

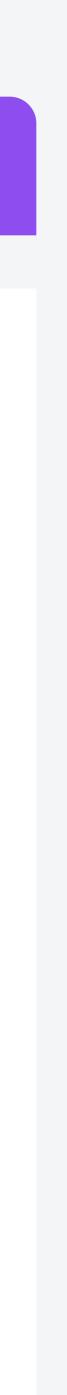Provides one central repository where students can categorise and store work for those with poor organisational skills.

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.

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How Read&Write Helps

Prediction

For students who experience anxiety, depression or stress when typing complex course terminology, 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 focusing on smaller amounts of text. Challenges with sustained concentration occur with learners with 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

For students who encounter inaccessible reading content, Read&Write's scanning feature, screenshot reader and PDF tools can help students convert this content to an accessible format. These can then be read with Read&Write or OrbitNote, highlights can be collected and audio files can be created.

Audio maker

For some students, reading and concentrating on large amounts of text can be overwhelming and cause stress. With Audio Maker, students can convert large volumes of text to an audible format, to listen to content, rather than read.

Audio files are portable and can be transferred to any device, should a student prefer to work from home due to their mental health problem.

< Take a tour

Learning needs

Mental health disorders

How Read&Write Helps

Highlighters

Highlighters in Read&Write help students easily collate and reference their research, helping them to feel less overwhelmed when undertaking a large piece of work.

Categorising with highlighter colours aids organisational skills and helps the student to feel less stressed as they won't feel disorganised.

Toolbar

The Read&Write toolbar is fully customizable 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.This supports students with cognitive load difficulties by narrowing the focus to individual paragraphs.

Check It

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

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. Challenges with working memory and concentration can impact the ability to learn.

Research folder

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

Take a tour

How Read&Write Helps

Low vision and visual impairments

Screen masking

Screen masking helps students with visual stress as they can use customisable coloured overlays on screen. Using screen masking with the reading ruler helps students with visual impairments as it narrows their focus to individual paragraphs.
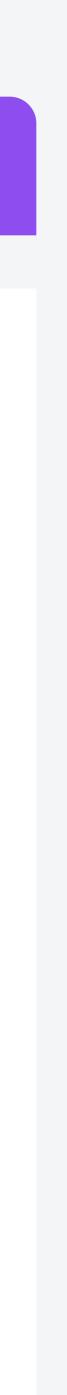
Audio maker

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 difficult.

Highlighters

A useful research tool allowing students to collect and collate information from the internet and documents. 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.

Vocabulary table

This tool helps students create tables displaying key course 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.

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Learning needs	How Read&Write Helps	Learning needs	How Read&Write Helps

Low vision and visual impairments

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 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 lecturers, in comparison to written feedback which a student may struggle to read.
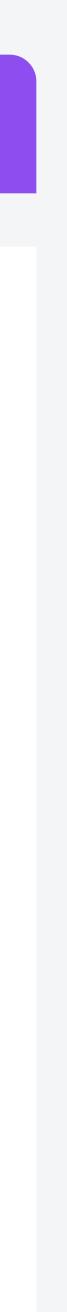
Hearing loss

Text-to-speech

Due to the visual element created with dual coloured highlighting, students with hearing loss 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.

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How Read&Write Helps

Motion and dexterity

Voice Note

Voice notes are a great way for students to leave notes and feedback in a document without having to type or handwrite.

Where a physical disability or manual dexterity challenges arise, Voice Note supports the student in responding and completing work without external support from a learning assistant. It also enhances the ability to communicate with a tutor/lecturer.

Students can use voice note as a self-reviewing tool, while working on assignments, adding voice amendments rather than written.

Text-to-speech and Audio Maker

Where a physical disability or manual dexterity challenge 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.

Where a physical disability or manual dexterity challenges arise, any additional weight can often impact on general ease of movement and transport.

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Download a quick reference card

Windows

Chrome

Mac

For more information on Texthelp tools for DSA students

visit: **https://text.help/dsa-academy-rw**

or email us at **dsagroup@texthelp.com.**

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