

This learning guide is designed for use by Professional Learning Communities, learning coaches and teacher leaders or as a self-paced study to explore how technology can support student success.

Text-to-speech technology

Use this conversation guide after viewing the video clip, [Text-to-speech](#)



General synopsis

In this brief video, Dr. Christopher Lee, a leader in the field of learning disabilities and adaptive technology, talks about the potential benefits of text-to-speech technology.

Key understandings

- Text-to-speech technology can assist students in the classroom, and can also help them transition more successfully to post-secondary studies and to the workplace.
- Text-to-speech technology can help ensure that students are not only looking at print but are hearing it read aloud. This gives them the opportunity to check their understanding.
- Text-to-speech technology can be used in a variety of ways, from reading an article at work or school to hovering on the desktop to help identify icons to reading e-mails.
- Text-to-speech applications often come with a range of features. For example, students can highlight text and have it read back, choose a gender-specific voice, or even choose different languages.
- Text-to-speech was once available only from specialized assistive technology vendors, but is now more common. For example, there is a text-to-speech application on an iPhone that can read everything from e-mails to newspapers. It has become an intuitive application that is not difficult to learn.

Questions for reflection and discussion

- In what ways does Dr. Lee challenge or affirm your understanding of the potential benefits of text-to-speech technology?
- What do you think are the advantages for students using text-to-speech technology? What (if any) are the limitations?
- Do you know students who might benefit from using text-to-speech technology? In what ways do you think these students would benefit?
- Dr. Lee mentions the possibility of choosing the gender of the voice when using text-to-speech technology. Why do you think this might be significant for some students?

For more information visit:

<http://www.learningtechnologiesab.com/>

Acknowledgement:

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