## Some Text to Speech Web Browser Add-ons

**For Chrome –**

**** *Read&Write for Google* The trial is free buy teachers can go to the TextHelp website and register as a teacher to keep the full, working copy. Highlight words as it reads them, several other features available in full version.

 *SpeakIt!* or*Select and Speak* select text and click on app

* *Chrome Speak* requires you to select text then right click to hear it read.

**To find these and other Chrome extensions go to the** [Chrome Web Store](https://chrome.google.com/webstore/category/apps)

**For Firefox –**

*FoxVox* will speak any text you highlight in a web page, in paid version you can create audiobooks in mp3, ogg, and wav formats.

* Text to Voice* Select text, click the button on the bottom right of Firefox window and this add-on speaks the selected text for you. Audio is downloadable.

**To find these and other Firefox extensions go to** [**https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/**](https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/)

**For most web browsers**

**ATBar** [**https://www.atbar.org**](https://www.atbar.org)

This free toolbar works with a variety of web browsers including Internet Explorer, Firefox and Chrome. Besides providing text to speech, it allows the user to increase or decrease text size, change font and line spacing. You can also highlight words to get dictionary definitions that in turn can be read out loud using ATbar's text to speech. It can also be used while writing to check spelling.  It’s not the very best at any one of these functions, but it is free, easy to use and may provide some students just the boost they need to be independent while online.

**Natural Reader** [**http://www.naturalreaders.com/**](http://www.naturalreaders.com/)

This free, downloadable software program provides text to speech that highlights as it reads, uses Microsoft voices and has a floating-bar option. It also allows you to add a bookmarklet to your browser for online text to speech support. The paid version includes additional voices and the ability to convert text to speech to mp3 format.

To use within your browser go to <http://www.naturalreaders.com/nr_bookmark/tip.php>

**Adobe Read Out Loud**

This is a built in feature of Adobe Reader (the software most of us use when reading or viewing a PDF).  You must first activate **Read Out Loud,** under View in Adobe Reader.  Once activated you click in the area you want read and a digitized voice will read it out loud.  Consider using Readability or Clearly above to ‘print’ a copy of the webpage article to PDF and then read it with Adobe's Read Out Loud option.  This feature is not the same as the software sold by Don Johnston called, Read OutLoud.

## Browser add-ons that alter web page appearance:

Below are apps, add-ons or extensions to web browser that do NOT read the text aloud. Instead these tools allow the user to simplify a webpage's layout by removing extraneous ads, messages and columns surrounding the article to be read. Other adjustments vary among these but include font size, text and background color, column width, options to send article to printer, Kindle or another account to print or read later – usually offline.

**Readability** <https://www.readability.com/apps> for Chrome, iOS and Readability Bookmarklet for Internet Explorer, Opera and Safari iOS

**Clearly** <https://evernote.com/clearly/> for use with Chrome

**Reader** for use with Safari iOS when WebPages make it available

**Ctrl +**

Don’t forget this easy method for increasing font size on most computers: Tap the Control Key and + key at the same time. This action increases the size of the text on the page. Repeat this key combination to continue increasing, or use Control - to make text smaller. So easy to do, but for some reason too easy to forget to try.  Also look for add on or extensions to your web browser.  For example Firefox has No Small Text - to make only the small text on a page bigger.