

# ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY TOOLS

April 2010

## A) FREE SOFTWARE

- **ReadPlease 2003** (free) (Text Reader) - <http://www.readplease.com/> FREE See instructions at: [http://atrc.utoronto.ca/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=139&Itemid=104](http://atrc.utoronto.ca/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=139&Itemid=104)  
Try reading text from Imagine If! - <http://post.queensu.ca/~dudleyp/BillV/imagine-if.html>
- **NaturalReader** (text to speech and text to mp3) <http://www.naturalreaders.com/> FREE

## B) HARDWARE

- **AlphaSmart** (portable keyboard imports text into a Word Processor on PC), later versions called "Neo" <http://www.alphasmart.com/>
- **Franklin Language Master; Homework Whiz** (spell checker, dictionary) <http://www.franklin.com/estore/dictionary/LM-6000B/>
- **Abacus** (for tactile feedback) <http://www.ee.ryerson.ca:8080/%7Eelf/abacus/>
- **Flip Ultra Video Recorder** (an alternative to written projects) - Video: (4:13 min.) [http://video.nytimes.com/video/2008/03/20/technology/personaltech/1194817112152/the-flip-ultravideo-recorder.html?scp=1&sq=flip ultra&st=cse](http://video.nytimes.com/video/2008/03/20/technology/personaltech/1194817112152/the-flip-ultravideo-recorder.html?scp=1&sq=flip%20ultra&st=cse)
- **Key to Access** (Talking word processor and others) <http://www.readingmadeeasy.ca/products/keytoaccess.html>
  - **iPod Touch / iPhone / iPad**  
<http://www.apple.com/ca/ipad/> and <http://www.apple.com/ca/ipodtouch/>
    - Tactile feedback, e.g., tracing letters
    - Reading books (audio or text)
    - Dragon Dictate (iPhone only?, maybe iPod?)
    - Calendar (with multiple alarms for reminders)
- **Reading/Scanning Pens** (Reads aloud dictionary definitions, reads scanned words aloud, saves scanned lines for later transfer to PC) <http://www.wizcomtech.com/>
- **Digital Pens**
  - **Livescribe Digital Pen** <http://www.livescribe.com/smartpen/videos.html>  
- Video: (4:17 min.) <http://video.nytimes.com/video/2008/05/08/technology/personaltech/1194817121313/the-pulse-smartpen.html>
- **Dane Elec Zpen** - <http://www.danedigital.com/6-Zpen/index.html> - Video: (4:29 min.) [http://video.on.nytimes.com/?fr\\_story=b91f3b0f9767144ee2d9e8e57e0c78537110d3c9](http://video.on.nytimes.com/?fr_story=b91f3b0f9767144ee2d9e8e57e0c78537110d3c9)
- **The Fusion** (text to speech, word prediction, math skills) [http://www.writerlearning.com/fusion\\_overview.php](http://www.writerlearning.com/fusion_overview.php)  
Try the Powerpoint walkthrough to see how it works: (large Powerpoint file download) [http://www.writerlearning.com/files/Fusion Walk-Through Sept 08.ppt](http://www.writerlearning.com/files/Fusion%20Walk-Through%20Sept%2008.ppt)

## C) SOFTWARE – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION LICENSED

- **Dragon Naturally Speaking** (Voice to text) <http://www.nuance.com/naturallyspeaking/> - Video demo (2.35 min.) <http://video.nytimes.com/video/2008/08/07/technology/personaltech/1194817477305/when-your-computer-listens-to-you.html>
- **Smart Ideas** (Concept Mapping Software) <http://smarttech.com/products/smartideas/index.asp>

- **Clicker 5** (Writing support and multimedia tool, e.g., Word Grids)  
<http://www.cricksoft.com/us/products/clicker/>  
--> View Clicker video tutorials:  
[http://www.setbc.org/setbc/access/access\\_clicker5\\_resources.html](http://www.setbc.org/setbc/access/access_clicker5_resources.html)  
and try the first three videos under "Demonstrations". See LearningGrids.com to download grids.
- **Write OutLoud** (Word processor with speech) : <http://donjohnston.com/catalog/catalog.htm> -  
--> View the "Software Demonstrations/Screen Captures" videos at  
<http://www.setbc.org/setbc/access/klr04.html>
- **Co:Writer (predictive words)** See "View Product Demonstration" section:  
[http://www.donjohnston.com/products/write\\_outloud/index.html](http://www.donjohnston.com/products/write_outloud/index.html)

#### ***D) LICENSED BY SOME SCHOOL BOARDS***

- **Kurzweil 3000** (talking word processor, scan to text, and test taker)  
<http://www.kurzweiledu.com/>
- **Word Q and Speak Q** (word prediction and speech-to-text)  
<http://www.wordq.com/> - free 30-day trial download from website

#### ***E) COMES WITH OPERATING SYSTEM***

- **Windows built-in accessibility** exploration FREE  
<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/using/accessibility/default.msp>
- **Mac accessibility** <http://www.apple.com/accessibility/learning/> (check out all the blue tabs at the top of the page to see built in options for accessibility) FREE

#### ***F) FREE AUDIO AND VIDEO DOWNLOADS***

- **Free books online** (pdf or html format)
  - Project Gutenberg U.S.: <http://www.gutenberg.org/>
  - Project Gutenberg Canada: <http://www.gutenberg.ca/>
- **Free epub books** - audio or text only
  - <http://Feedbooks.com>
  - <http://epubbooks.com>
  - <http://Manybooks.com>
- **Read epub format books**
  - PC or Mac – use **iTunes** (FREE download from <http://www.apple.com/itunes>)
  - iPod Touch / iPhone app
    - Good app with links to lots of free books: **STANZA** (FREE download from iTunes App Store)
- **Free Audio (podcasts) and Video (vodcasts) downloads**
  - iTunes Store (access from iTunes software) under **Podcasts** and **iTunesU**
  - CBC podcasts of favourite radio programs (e.g., News & Current Affairs, Vinyl Café, Comedy Factory, Quirks & Quarks) <http://www.cbc.ca/podcasting/>
  - PBS video (subscribe via iTunes) <http://www.pbs.org/podcasts/>