

Division for Special Education Services and Supports

Assistive Technology: Google Chrome Extensions

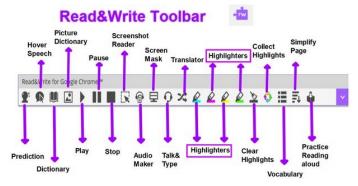
August 2019

Text to Speech and Speech to Text Extensions

Text to Speech

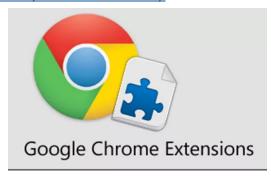
Read&Write for Google Chrome (pricing)

The "Swiss Army Knife" of extensions with tools including word prediction, dictionary, picture dictionary, text to speech, screenshot reader, speech maker, screen mask, translator, highlighters, voice note, and more. Works on webpages, PDFs, Google Docs, and Google Slides.



Note: There is a paid version with all the tools and a free version with a subset of the tools. Educators can get the paid version for a year at no cost by filling out the form at:

https://www.texthelp.com/en-us/products/
read-write/free-for-teachers/



Source: Chrome Extensions for Struggling Students and Special Needs
Eric Curtis
Webpage
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Text to Speech

Read Aloud (\$ 0.00)

This text-to-speech extension will read either the entire page or just the text that you have selected. In addition to the normal options to adjust the speed, pitch, and volume of the voice, the best feature is the wide collection of high-quality voices to choose from.



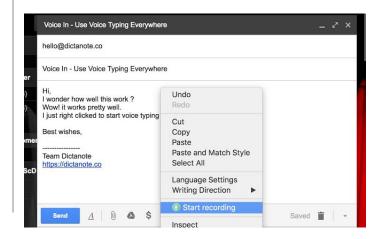
Announcify (\$0.00)

This is another text to speech tool that not only reads a webpage, but also removes distracting elements from the site. The only drawback is the inability to select specific text to read, as the entire page is read aloud.

Speech to Text

VoiceIn Voice Typing (\$0.00)

This speech-to-text extension allows the user to dictate text for any text box or text entry portion of a web page. You can either click the extension or right-click and choose "Start recording" to use it. Be sure to click the extension again to turn off the speech-to-text function when done.







Readability Extensions

Readability Extensions

Mercury Reader \$ 0.00)

Make any website easier to read by removing ads, comments, and all other distractions, so just the core content remains. Users can also adjust the font size and color scheme of the new text. (For a list of 10 more extensions that clean up webpages, see here: http://www.controlaltachieve.com/2016/11/10readability-alternatives.html)



The quick brown Override all fonts on a webpage with the OpenDyslexic font, making the text more easily readable fox jumped over the lazy brown dog.

OpenDyslexic (\$0.00)

Override all fonts on a webpage with more easily readable.

Dyslexia Friendly (\$0.00)

This extension replaces the fonts on a web page with either OpenDvslexic or Comic Sans, and provides a horizontal shaded bar to help the user stay on the correct line when reading. The only drawback is there is no easy way to toggle it on and off, so you will want to use an extension management tool to let you turn it off when not in use.

BeeLine Reader This tool creates a more readable version of a web page by removing all the ads, comments, and other extra distracting items, and then applies a color gradient to the page text guide your eye from one line to the next. (Limit of 5 articles per day for free version.)(\$BeeLine charges individual users \$10 per year for unlimited, ad-free use of its browser plugin. The PDF plugin costs \$12/ year, while the iPad app can be purchased for \$5. The company offers volume discounts for educators for both the browser and PDF plugins.)



Read Faster and Easier, All Day Long

Reading on-screen can be tough on your eyes, especially if you have to do it all day long. We're here to help. BeeLine Reader makes reading on-screen easier, faster, and more enjoyable. We use a simple cognitive trick - an eye-guiding color gradient - to pull your eyes from one line to the next. This technique increases reading speed and enhances focus. BeeLine's efficacy has been validated in independent testing by literacy nonprofits, educators, and even CNET. But you don't have to take their word for it - flip through a few above color schemes and see how much faster you can read!

ATbar (\$0.00)

Toolbar with features including color overlays for webpages, dictionary, text to speech, word prediction, and more.

Reading Comprehension and Focus Extensions

Reading Comprehension

Google Dictionary (\$0.00)

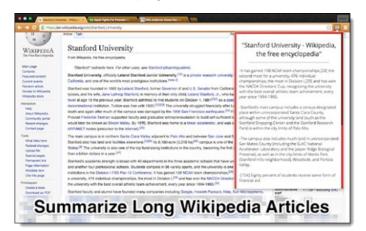
Don't get stuck on an unknown word. Doubleclick on any word to get a pop-up definition, as well as spoken pronunciation for many words.

SMMRY (\$0.00)

While not technically an extension, this tool functions very much like one and is launched from your Chrome bookmarks bar. Summarize any online article with a simple click of the SMMRY bookmark link. This will generate a simplified version with fewer sentences (7 by default) and just the most important information. Settings can be adjusted for longer or shorter summaries, as well as emphasis on certain desired words.

Internet Abridged (\$0.00)

This article summary tool gives you a pop-up window with a short bullet list of the main sentences from the page



Auto Highlight (\$0.00)

This extension takes a different approach to summarizing. Instead of removing the non-essential portions of the text, it highlights what is most important. This allows the reader to still look at the rest of the article if needed. Three levels of highlighting can be chosen.

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Assistive Technology

Any item, piece of equipment or product system, whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of children with disabilities.

The term does not include a medical device that is surgically implanted, or the replacement of such device.





Focus Extensions

Simple Blocker (\$0.00)

This tool helps students to stay focused on their work by blocking dis-



tracting websites. The user can choose the sites to block, how long to block them, and optional password protection.

uBlock Origin (\$0.00)

A simple but powerful ad-blocking extension to help remove distracting ads from websites, making pages less cluttered and easier to read.