

ATO Guide:

Free Assistive Technology Tools in 2026

These Assistive Technology tools are available for free! All programs, apps, and software included on this list are free or offer free versions. Students may also choose to upgrade to paid accounts for access to additional features and tools. **Please note**, not all Tool information is mentioned in this guide.

For more information about accommodation and assistive technology, students can visit the [Assistive Technology Website](#). Our services are designed to provide support and resources that help ensure equal access to educational opportunities for all students.

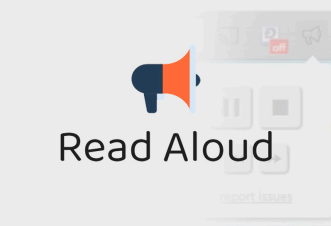
If you have questions or want to learn more about available tools and how to use the tools effectively, please contact us at assistivetech@csueastbay.edu or call **510-885-4396**. Our team is happy to help you explore available resources and find the tools that best support your needs.

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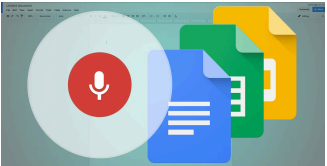
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Reading & Literacy Support (Text-to-Speech):

1.	Natural Reader 	• Text-to-Speech software which converts Microsoft Word, Webpages, PDFs, and Emails into spoken text. • Customize reading voice and speed for your readings. • Floating toolbar to read text in other applications. • Online Text-to-Speech program with options to input text from various sources on your computer. Official Website: NaturalReader Official website Add Chrome Extension: NaturalReader Chrome Extension Help Guides: NaturalReader FAQs & Guides Compatibility: Chrome, iOS, Android, Mac, & Edge Free Version but Paid unlocks more features. View Plans
2.	Speechify 	• Text-to-Speech software which reads text aloud using a computer-generated A.I. text to speech voice. • Available as a mobile, chrome extension and desktop app. • Allows users to take photos of text and then listen to it read out loud. Official Website: Speechify Official website Add Chrome Extension: Speechify Chrome Extension Help Guides: Speechify FAQs and Guides Compatibility: Chrome, iOS, Android, Mac, & Edge Free Version but Paid unlocks more features View Plans

3.	Read Aloud 	• Read aloud the current web-page article with one click, using text to speech (TTS) • Supports 40+ languages, can read PDF, Google Docs, Google Play books, Amazon Kindle, and EPUB • Open Source project on GitHub, an add on/ extension Open source: Read Aloud GitHub Add Chrome Extension: Read Aloud Chrome Extension Help Guides: Read Aloud FAQs & Support Compatibility: Chrome & Firefox Extension Completely Free
4.	Apple's Spoken Content 	• Have your Mac/iPad/iPhone speak text on your screen's device. • Mac Book ◦ Mac Guide & Support • iPad ◦ iPad Guide & Support • iPhone ◦ iPhone Guide & Support Completely Free
5.	Talkie: TTS, Many Languages 	• Fast, easy, high-quality text to speech in over 40 languages. • Read out loud from websites, PDF, email. Speak text with TTS. • Automatically detects the text language per-page, and chooses a voice in the same language to match it Official Website: Talkie Website Add Chrome Extension: Talkie Chrome Extension Help Guides: Talkie FAQ & Support Compatibility: Chrome & Firefox Extension Completely Free

Dictation/Speech-to-Text/Speech Recognition:

1.	Google Voice Typing 	• Turn on your microphone (Ctrl+Shift+S) • Use voice typing & Voice Commands • You can use different phrases to add punctuation to your text: Period, Comma, Exclamation point, Question mark, new line, new paragraph • Over 50+ Languages available that work with voice typing. Punctuation might not be available in every language: • When you're done, click the microphone again. Help Guides: Google Type with your voice Support Compatibility: Google Docs, Google Slides, latest versions of Chrome, Firefox, Edge, and Safari browsers Completely Free
2.	Windows Dictation 	• With voice typing, you can enter text on your PC by speaking. • Voice typing uses online speech recognition, which is powered by Azure Speech services. • Turn on voice typing- Press Windows logo key + H • Press Windows logo key + Alt + H to navigate through the voice typing menu with your keyboard. Help Guides: Windows Dictation Guide & Support Compatibility: Microsoft Windows 10, 11 Totally Free
3.	Apple Dictation 	• Speak to your Mac/iPad/iPhone to type out text on your device. • Mac Book ○ Mac Guide & Support • iPad ○ iPad Guide & Support

		• iPhone ◦ iPhone Guide & Support Help Guides: Apple Dictation Guide & Support Compatibility: Apple devices, macOS Completely Free
4.	Gboard 	• Suitable if you already have an Android device • Primarily designed as a keyboard, it has a speech input option which is directly available and easy to use. • A powerful and responsive tool. You can also trigger images in your text using voice commands. • Additionally, it can also work with Google Translate and is advertised as providing support for over 60 languages. Download App: Gboard App on Playstore Help Guides: Gboard Support and Help Compatibility: Android, iOS Completely Free
5.	Speechnotes 	• To use Speechnotes, you don't need to create an account; you just open the app and press on the microphone icon, and you're off • The app is powered by Google voice recognition tech • When recording a note, you can easily dictate punctuation marks through voice commands, or by using the built-in punctuation keyboard. • You can quickly add names, signatures, greetings and other frequently used text The app is free, but you can make in-app purchases to access premium features (there's also a browser version for Chrome) • Has a sister app for Apple called TextHear Official Website: Speechnotes Website Add Chrome Extension: Speechnotes Chrome Extension

		Download from Play store: Speechnotes on Playstore Download from Apple store: TextHear on Appstore Help Guides: Speechnotes FAQs & Guides Compatibility: Chrome Extension, App on Android, iOS Free Version but Paid unlocks more features View Plans
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Note Taking/ Audio Recording:

1.	Otter.ai  Otter.ai	• Get automated meeting notes and summaries with action items using OtterPilot. • Connect Otter to your Google or Microsoft calendar, and it can automatically join and record your meetings on Zoom, Microsoft Teams, and Google Meet. • Otter records audio and automatically takes notes in real time, so that you can focus on the discussion. Highlight notes to reference anytime. • In virtual sessions, Otter automatically captures lecture slides and adds them to the notes, helping students recall details with full context. Official Website: Otter Website Add Chrome Extension: Otter Chrome Extension Download from Play store: Otter on Playstore Download from Apple store: Otter on Appstore Help Guides: Otter FAQs & Support Compatibility: Chrome Extension, App on Android, iOS Free Version but Paid unlocks more features View Plans
2.	Notability	• Notability is an app that allows notetaking and enables the annotation of PDF files. • You can also handwrite, record, and replay your notes. • Features include DF annotation, download external notes, view a second hidden note while presenting.

		Official Website: Notability Website Get App: Notability on Appstore Help Guides: Notability FAQs & Support Compatibility: Available for iPad, Mac, and iPhone Free Version but Paid unlocks more features View Plans
3.	Audio Note 2: Voice Recorder 	• Link the notes you take to the audio recorded when you take them. • The result is a linked index of your recording that quickly provides invaluable audio context for your notes. • Features include synchronizing digital notes with audio recording, type or handwritten notes, PDF slides - take notes directly on presentation slides and other documents. Official Website: Audio Note Website Download from Apple store: Audio Note 2 on Appstore Windows App: Audio Note for Windows Help Guides: Audio Note Help & Services Compatibility: iOS, Windows Free Version but Paid unlocks more features
4.	Microsoft One Note 	• Microsoft OneNote is a digital note taking app for iOS, Android and Windows which allows you to take notes and add content at any time. • It stores your notes in the Cloud for easy access on whatever device you are using. • Features include: Sync notes between devices, add sections and pages, create multiple notebooks, handwrite notes, and read content aloud. Official Website: Microsoft OneNote Website Get App on AppStore: Microsoft OneNote on Appstore Get App on Playstore: Microsoft Note on Playstore Get App on Windows: Microsoft OneNote on Windows Help Guides: OneNote FAQs & Support

		Compatibility: Windows, Apple, Android, Web Totally Free
5.	tl;dv.io 	• Automatically record Google Meet, Zoom and Microsoft Teams meetings • Receive highly accurate Google Meet transcription with Speaker Labels • Transcribe in 20+ languages including English, French, German, Spanish, Portuguese, Japanese and many more • Receive instant AI Summaries with our AI Meeting Note taker • Take notes during Google Meet call Official Website: tl;dv Website Add Chrome Extension: tl;dv Chrome Extension Get App: tl;dv App Help Guides: tl;dv Help Center Compatibility: Apple, Android, Chrome Extension Free Version but Paid unlocks more features View Plans

Time Management & Distraction Free:

1.	Forest: Stay focused 	• Set timers with restrictions to use of computer • You can restrict websites that are distractions to the mail website you want to focus on. • When you use the extension more, you get to see all the plants that you grew in a virtual forest. Official Website: Forest: Stay focused Add Chrome extension: Forest Chrome Extension Help: Forest: stay focused FAQs Compatibility: Apple, Android, Chrome Extension Totally Free
2.	Todoist 	• Combines efficiency with simplicity, using its various task-keeping features and language recognition. • Set up different to-do lists under different projects, create reminders, and set up different priorities for your tasks. • Todoist's language recognition will even automatically set a single or recurring time for your task and much more. • Add a task, break it into subtasks, move tasks into projects, share your projects, give tasks a priority level, set up reminders, add some extensions, create filter views, complete tasks. Official Website: Todoist Website Add Chrome Extension: Todoist Chrome Extension Get App: Todoist Apple store Help Guides: Todoist FAQs & Support Compatibility: Apple, Android, Chrome Extension Free Starter but Paid unlocks more features View Plans

3.	Any.do 	• Allows you to organize your day by creating reminders, to-do lists, notes, and events for each day. • Any.do's free personal plan lets you easily manage any lists, tasks, reminders, etc. that you may have! Official Website: Any.do Website Get App: Any.do Apple store Help Guides: Any.do Help Guide (Chat) Compatibility: Apple, Android Free Starter but Paid unlocks more features View Plans
5.	Pomofocus.io 	• Structured Work Sessions: Allows you to use dedicated 25-minute focus periods (Pomodoro). • Scheduled Breaks: Allows to take short breaks (5 mins) breaks after each session and a longer break (15 minutes) after four sessions. • Task Management: Includes a simple to-do list where you can add tasks and track progress. Official Website: pomofocus.io Get App: For IOS, For Andriods
6.	Focuskeeper.co 	• Uses Pomodoro Technique to structure work and breaks for better focus. • Offers a free "starter" version; a paid Pro subscription unlocks all features. • Free features: Includes the basic 25-minute Pomodoro timer, standard breaks, and limited 3-day data tracking. • Pro Features (\$2.99 per month and \$9.99 per year): Unlocks custom session lengths, full historical data, unlimited tasks, and cross-device syncing. Compatibility: Apple , Android, and web. Help guides: Focuskeeper Glossary