

Reading and Writing Supports for Middle School



Presented by: TASK

Laura Simmons-Martinez, Assistive Technology Program Manager
Elizabeth Ortega, Assistive Technology Specialist

TASK

Helping families navigate:

▲ Special education

▲ Disability services

▲ Assistive technology



taskca.org
Toll-Free in CA: 866.828.8275

TASK is a nonprofit serving:
Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino,
San Diego & Imperial Counties

*We are a Parent Training and Information Center
and a Family Empowerment Center*

Mission Statement



TASK educates and empowers people with disabilities and their families.

TASK

Disclaimer

- TASK staff are not advocates or attorneys. We do not provide recommendations, legal advice, or suggestions.
- Our family support specialists offer peer-to-peer support, information and options to parents of children with disabilities, so they can become informed members of the IEP team and work collaboratively with schools.

TASK

Family Support Specialist (FSS) Services

- One-on-one phone consultations
- Virtual IEP consultations and review of documentation
- Assistance with letter writing
- Educational webinars
- Support for Military Families
- Information and resources
- Virtual community outreach



TASK Online Support Groups

■ Parent Connection

- Support Group for Parents Only
- Led by TASK Staff
- Monthly Topic
- Padlet with Resources sent out after each session
- Meets the fourth Tuesday of the month from 10-11 a.m.



■ Restorative Connection

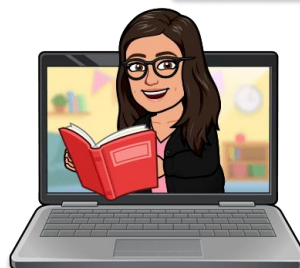
- Support Group for Parents Only
- Led by a Mental Health Professional
- Challenging and Sensitive topics
- Meets twice a month on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month from 6-7 p.m.



<https://taskca.org/calendar>

Tech Center Services Include:

- Assistive Technology Webinars
- Individualized Online Lab Appointments
- AT Consultations/Clinics
- TECH Connection (Online)
 - Social/Life Skills Group ages 14+
- AAC Services
 - Project Communicate –
FREE One Hour AAC Consultation
- Information and Resources



ALL SERVICES BY APPOINTMENT

Feel free to contact us!

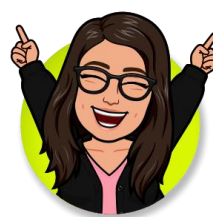
- If you are looking for assistive technology or have specific questions pertaining to your child or clients, please email us. We are happy to assist you!

Laura Simmons-Martinez, Assistive Technology Program Manager

Email: LauraSM@taskca.org

Elizabeth Ortega, Assistive Technology Specialist

LizO@taskca.org



TASK
GUIDANCE | EDUCATION | SUPPORT

A.T. Webinars Include:

- Apps for Auditory and Visual Skills
- Apps for Early Learning
- Apps for Spelling and Phonics
- Favorite FUN Apps
- Marvelous Math Apps
- Reading Apps
- Social and Life Skills Apps
- Writing Apps
- Assistive Technology for Sensory Difficulties
- Fabulous Freebies: Assistive Technology at No Cost and Adaptation Ideas for Very Low Cost
- Intro to Assistive Technology
- Let's Talk Low Tech AAC Series
 - Let's Talk Low Tech AAC: An Intro
 - AAC Outside the Box

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www.taskca.org/calendar


TECH Tidbits from TASK (Assistive Technology focused E-Newsletter)

TO SUBSCRIBE, visit:


<http://taskca.org/tech-center/>




In today's presentation:



Apps (for iOS, Android) –
Need iPad or Android Tablet to use



Google Chrome Extensions-
Can use with Chrome Browser or on
Chromebooks



Websites –
Can use on any device

Reading Supports



E Book Resources

- Book Boon
<https://bookboon.com/>
- Bookshare
www.bookshare.org/cms/
- Internet Archive (Free Books/Texts)
<https://archive.org/details/texts>
- Learning Ally
<https://learningally.org/>
- Lit2Go
<https://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/>
- Open Library
<https://openlibrary.org/subjects>
- Overdrive (library books)
www.overdrive.com/
- Project Gutenberg
www.gutenberg.org/



Digital Book Apps

APPLE BOOKS

- Books you download are available on your iOS devices, so you'll never be without your favorite reads.
- Some children's books have interactive and read aloud features available.
- Multiple features to customize reading preferences
- Many textbooks available too!
 - iOS Only
 - Free

www.apple.com/apple-books



KINDLE APP

- Customize your text size, font type, margins, text alignment, and orientation (portrait or landscape)—and choose whether to turn pages from left to right or continuously scroll. Read comfortably day and night with adjustable brightness and background colors.
 - iOS/Google Play/PC/Mac
 - Free

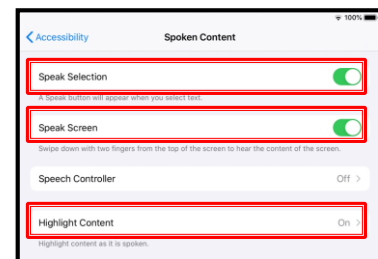
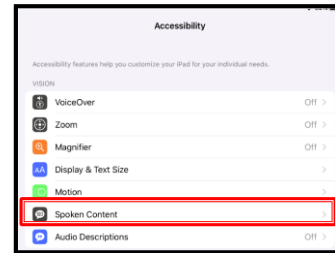
www.amazon.com/kindle-dbs/fd/kcpp





Speak Selection Feature in iOS

- Launch the **Settings app** from the Home screen.
- Scroll down the left side and tap on **Accessibility**.
- On the right side, tap **Spoken Content**
- Tap **Speak Selection** option and turn it to **On**.
- Go down to **Highlight Content**, turn it on.
- Choose **Words and Sentences** and select either **Background Color or Underline**.
- Choose **Speaking Rate**



Dolphin Easy Reader

- EasyReader is a FREE accessible reading app for readers with dyslexia, low vision or blindness. Browse & download from the World's largest collection of talking book and newspaper libraries.
- Open & read books from your device, email or the cloud. Or copy text from anywhere on your phone & hear EasyReader read it back to you.
- EasyReader can add a human sounding voice of your choice. Boost comfort or contrast - choose colours, text size and highlights to suit your visual needs..
 - FREE
 - iOS/Google Play



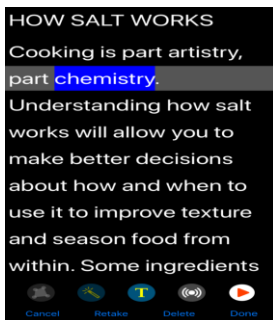
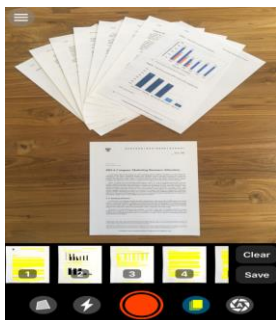
<https://yourdolphin.com/en-gb/products/individuals/easyreader-app>

Scan and Read Apps

■ Voice Dream Scanner

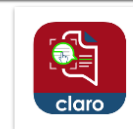
- iOS Only
- \$5.99

www.voicedream.com/scanner/



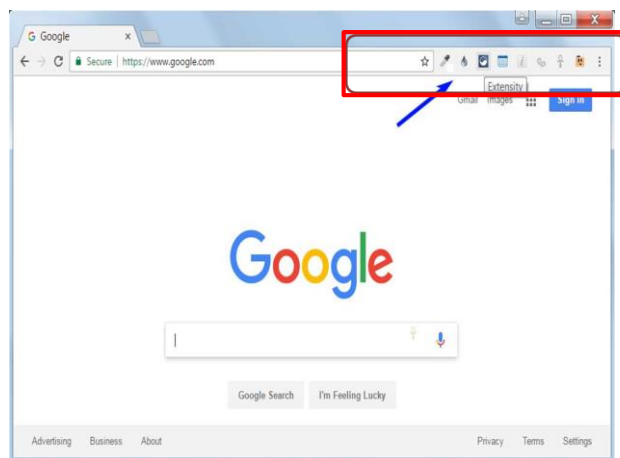
■ Claro Scan Pen

- iOS
- <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/claro-scanpen/id994933713>
- Google Play
- https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.clarosoftware.scanpen.scanpen_android&hl=en_US&gl=US
- Free/\$9.99



What is a Google Chrome Extension?

- Google **Chrome extensions** are programs that can be installed into **Chrome** in order to change the browser's functionality.
- This includes adding new features to **Chrome** or modifying the existing behavior of the program itself to make it more convenient for the user.



Google Chrome Extensions

Text to Speech

- Claroread
 - Speak text on any website. Highlighting feature available.
- Natural Reader Text to Speech
 - Listen to webpages, PDF, Email, Google Docs, or any other web content.

Helpful Tools

- Reading Ruler
 - Simple tool used to highlight current reading line
- Beeline Reader
 - BeeLine's color gradient makes reading faster/easier for over 90% of people.

<https://chrome.google.com/webstore/category/extensions>

Newsela

Website/App

- Text-leveled Reading
- News & Non Fiction
- Read Daily Articles At 5 Reading Levels
- Adjust the reading level with a simple two-finger swipe.
- Test Your Reading Skills
- Take quizzes both online or offline.
 - iOS/Google Play/Website



<https://newsela.com/>

From craft store to spacecraft: Nylon will help us land on Mars

By Hau Chu, Washington Post, adapted by Newsela staff
05/22/2018

Grade Level **6**
Word Count **687**



Stitching together a Mars landing: NASA parachute made from nylon

By Washington Post, adapted by Newsela staff
05/22/2018

Grade Level **4**
Word Count **605**



Space-age materials for Mars rover parachute? No, just plain old nylon

By Washington Post, adapted by Newsela staff
03/22/2018

Grade Level **2**
Word Count **370**



Rewordify- Understand what you read

Rewordify.com is powerful, free, online reading comprehension software. It helps people understand difficult English faster, and helps them learn words in new ways.

Just paste in a difficult English sentence, paragraph, or more, or enter a web page URL and click the button. You'll instantly see an easier version, for fast understanding now.

No dictionary needed! Plus, the easier version is specially highlighted to help build vocabulary.

Enter English text or a web site to simplify:

I have just returned from a visit to my landlord--the solitary neighbour that I shall be troubled with. This is certainly a beautiful country! In all England, I do not believe that I could have fixed on a situation so completely removed from the stir of society. A perfect misanthropist's heaven: and Mr. Heathcliff and I are such a suitable pair

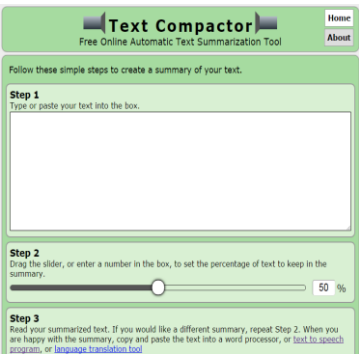
Rewordified text:

I have just returned from a visit to my landlord--the **single/alone** neighbour that I **will** be troubled with. This is certainly a beautiful country! In all England, I do not believe that I could have fixed on a situation so completely removed from the stir of society. A perfect **person-hater's** heaven: and Mr. Heathcliff and I are such a **good** pair to divide the **loneliness** between us. A capital fellow! He little imagined how my heart warmed towards him when I **looked/saw** his black eyes withdraw so suspiciously under their brows, as I rode up, and when his fingers sheltered themselves, with a jealous resolution, still further in his waistcoat, as I announced my name.

<http://rewordify.com/>

Free Online Text Summarization Tools

TEXT COMPACTOR



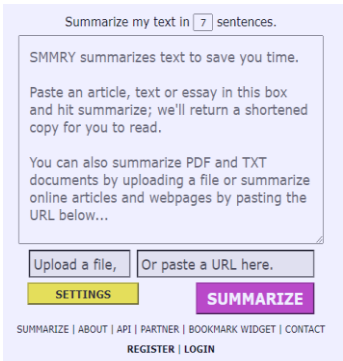
www.textcompactor.com/

SUMMARIZE THIS



www.summarizethis.com/

SMMRY



<https://smmry.com/>

Writing Tools



Graphic Organizers/Outlining

Apps



- **Inspiration Maps (VPP)**
www.diagrammingapps.com/inspiration-maps-product-page
 - iOS
 - Free/\$9.99



- **Popplet**
<http://popplet.com/>
 - iOS/Chromebook/Web
 - Free/\$2.99

Online Access

- Edrawsoft
www.edrawsoft.com/template-cluster-graphic-organizer.html
(Free Trial)

Google Chrome Extension/Online

- Mind Mup
www.mindmup.com/

Word Prediction/Text to Speech Apps

Co-Writer Universal App

- Co:Writer uses grammar-smart and vocabulary-smart word prediction, translation support, and speech recognition to help unstick ideas and get them to flow in writing.
- Topic Dictionaries
- Speech To Text Feature on web versions
 - **ALL PLATFORMS**
 - Free trial/\$60.00 year

- **Co-Writer Universal** is available for free download with school purchased account.

<https://learningtools.donjohnston.com/product/cowriter/>



Voice Dream Writer

- Text to Speech
- Proofreading
- Word Finder
- Outlining
- Customizable visual and auditory settings
- Keyboard and Gesture Shortcuts
- Import, Export, and Print Features
 - iOS Only
 - \$9.99



<https://www.voicedream.com/writer/>

Document Assistance

Snap Type/Snap Type Pro

- With SnapType, students can take a picture of their worksheets, or import worksheets from anywhere on their device.
- They can then use their keyboard to add text to these documents and print, email, or share their creations.
- Pro Version adds bonus features.
 - iOS/Google Play
 - Free/\$4.99 Pro Version

www.snaptypeapp.com/



Adobe Fill and Sign – Form Filler

- With this mobile app for iPhone and Android, snap a picture of a paper form, fill it out, sign it, and send it from your phone or tablet.
 - iOS/Google Play
 - FREE



<https://acrobat.adobe.com/us/en/mobile/fill-sign-pdfs.html>

Grammar/Contextual Spell Checkers

Grammarly

- Real-time writing suggestions
- Sophisticated spelling and grammar checker
- Suggestions for improving unclear sentences
- Recommendations for streamlining wordy sentences
- Smart autocorrect
 - iOS/ Google Play/Chrome Extension/Online
 - FREE/IAP



www.grammarly.com/

Ginger

- Grammar Checker with advanced proofreading tools that automatically correct grammar and spelling mistakes.
- Sentence Rephraser lets you explore different ways to express the text you are writing.
- Dictionary and Synonyms
- Test Reader
- Translator
 - iOS/Google Play/Amazon/Chrome
 - \$8.99



www.gingersoftware.com

Questions?



Thank You for Your Attendance

Please complete the evaluation:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/J6CQK7V>



SCAN QR CODE
WITH CAMERA

thank you!

TASK

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TASK TECH Center

3040 Saturn Street, #103, Brea, CA 92821

(866) 828-8275 Toll Free in CA

www.taskca.org

<https://www.youtube.com/user/TASKPTI/videos>

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