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GLS UNIVERSITY

COMPUTER FUNDAMENTALS &
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.
UNIT– II

Speech Generating devices

- **Speech-generating devices (SGDs)**, also known as **voice output communication aids**, are electronic **augmentative (enhancing) and alternative communication (AAC)** systems used to supplement(add) or replace speech or writing for individuals with severe **speech impairments**, enabling them to verbally communicate.
- Speech-generating devices are hand-held electronic devices that play pre-recorded words or phrases when the user touches a switch or presses buttons or keys.
- They are particularly helpful for patients suffering from **amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)** but recently have been used for children with predicted speech deficiencies.

SGD: Introduced in 1970s

- The first known SGD was prototyped in the mid-1970s, and rapid progress in [hardware](#) and [software](#) development.
- Notable users of SGDs include [Stephen Hawking](#), [Roger Ebert](#), [Tony Proudfoot](#), and [Pete Frates](#)
- A major advantage of SGDs is that the device allows the individual to say and play with words, which helps the process of acquiring new words and language.
- A major disadvantage of using only recorded speech is that users are unable to produce novel messages; they are limited to the messages pre-recorded into the device. Depending on the device, there may be a limit to the length of the recordings.

Stephen Hawking, SGD user



[Stephen Hawking](#), late astrophysicist and prominent SGD user & died in March 14, 2018 at age 76

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