

# Assistive Software - Useful Apps and websites

## Time Management and Organisation:

- [Microsoft Outlook](#)- Calendar and Tasks for organisation and planning. As a student you have access to Microsoft Outlook.
- [OneNote](#) -Programme for recording, storing and organising text notes, web pages, photos, attachments and sound files. It is part of your free Microsoft account.
- [Google Calendar](#) - Web based calendar that can send email or text message reminders.
- [Apple Calendar](#) - Calendar app for Apple devices
- [Evernote](#) - Collection of tools for recording, storing and organising text notes, webpages, photos, attachments and sound files. Available for PCs, Macs and mobile devices.

## Mindmapping:

- [XMIND](#) - Free Mindmapping software, available on all university computers
- [Coggle](#) - Web based Mindmapping software.

## Note taking:

- [Audio Class Notes](#) - Audio Class Notes makes it easy to record class lectures, and tag the important points. You can instantly jump to the important parts of the lesson and study in less time. Apple devices only.
- [Google Keep](#) - You can make notes, audio record your teachers' lectures, click and save images from the app and save your time and paper. Organize your project deadlines with the in-app alarm. Android devices only.
- [Evernote](#) - Collection of tools for recording, storing and organising text notes, webpages, photos, attachments and sound files. Available for Windows, OS X and mobile devices.
- [One Note](#) - Programme for recording, storing and organising text notes, webpages, photos, attachments and sound files.

## Support with reading:

- [Natural Reader](#) - Text-to-speech software that can convert any written text, such as MS Word, Webpage, PDF and emails into spoken word. Both web based and applications for Windows and OS X. Basic version is free to use.
- [Robobrain](#) - Converts documents into audio files. Can also convert inaccessible files such as image files and non-text PDFs into accessible documents or into audio files. Web based tool.

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- [ATbar](#) - Change the look and feel of web pages, increase and decrease font sizes, have text read aloud, use coloured overlays, readability and a dictionary to aid reading. Spell check forms and try word prediction when writing. Toolbar plug-in for most web browsers.
- [Built in Windows Text to Speech](#) - Windows 7 and above comes with a basic screen reader called Narrator, which reads text on the screen aloud and describes some events (such as an error message appearing) that happen while you're using the computer.
- [Built in Apple Mac Text to Speech](#)- OS X has a screen reader called VoiceOver which reads every item on the screen but also text-to-speech features that reads selected text when you press a specific key.
- [BeeLine Reader](#) - makes reading faster and easier by using a colour gradient that guides your eyes from the end of one line to the beginning of the next. With BeeLine Reader, you can finish your work faster—and with less eyestrain. Can be installed as an app or as a browser plug-in for Firefox / Chrome. Also works with PDFs.

### Support with writing:

- [PaperRater](#) - This provides in depth analysis to help improve grammar and writing. Some of the features include plagiarism detection, auto grader, spelling and grammar check, style and word choice analysis, readability statistics, title validation and a vocabulary builder tool. Web based application.
- [Grammarly](#) - Grammarly's writing app finds and corrects hundreds of complex writing errors. As you type, Grammarly checks your text against more than 250 advanced grammar rules. The checks include common grammatical errors, such as subject-verb agreement, article use, and modifier placement, in addition to contextual spelling mistakes, phonetic spelling mistakes, and irregular verb conjugations. Plus, Grammarly's spell check takes the context of your sentence into account. Grammarly also provides synonym suggestions to make your writing more readable and precise. Web based application and plugins for Chrome browser, Microsoft Office and Windows.
- [Ginger](#)- This proof reader is integrated with most common desktop applications and browsers. Ginger proof reader offers both ESL (English as a Second Language) and native English speakers the ability to correct spelling and grammar mistakes with a single-click. Available for Windows and Android/Apple mobile devices.
- [Internet Grammar of English](#) - This is an online course in English grammar written primarily for university undergraduates. It has a website and a downloadable app for Apple and Android hand-held devices. This site covers the very basics right through to the very complex and does use some very technical language. However, it is very useful for reference. Web based.

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- [DiCom](#) - Dicom Portable allows you to complete words in fewer keystrokes, making it a valuable tool for users with motor and coordination impairments. It includes English and French dictionaries of words, and you can add your own words using the configuration icon in the system tray. After entering a few characters, a list of word options pops up with the ability to hit F1 to F10 to select the appropriate word. The app can also be used for your own dictionaries for programming and other subjects. Windows only.

### Dictation:

- [Dragon-Speech Recognition](#) - Voice recognition programme that converts speech into text on a computer as a person talks. **There is a cost for this software**
- Operating System built-in Functionality - Speech recognition can be enabled on your own device, using the built-in functionality: Windows 10, Mac, Android and Apple mobile devices.

### Screen readers:

- [NVDA \(NonVisual Desktop Access\)](#) - Free “screen reader” which enables blind and vision impaired people to use computers. It reads the text on the screen in a computerised voice. You can control what is read to you by moving the cursor to the relevant area of text with a mouse or the arrows on your keyboard. NVDA can also convert the text into braille if the computer user owns a device called a “braille display”. For Windows only.
- [VoiceOver](#) - Built-in screen reader for Mac and Apple mobile devices.
- [TalkBack](#) - Built-in screen reader for Android devices.
- [Jaws](#) - is a paid for computer screen reader programme for Microsoft Windows that allows blind and visually impaired users to read the screen either with a text-to-speech output or by a Refreshable Braille display.

### Office Software:

- [Office 365](#) - Includes Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and OneNote. Free to Norwich Uni students
- [Libre Office](#) - Contains word processor, spreadsheet, presentation tool, vector graphics editor, database manager and mathematical equation editor. For Windows, OS X and Linux.
- [Google Docs](#) - Online office software – contains word processor, spreadsheet and presentation program.

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### Colour Blindness Adjustments:

- [Daltonize](#) - Plugin for Chrome browser that adjusts the colours to make them accessible. Settings for people with Protanopia (red-green), Deuteranopia (red-green), or Tritanopia (blue-yellow). Most forms of files can be converted to HTML to be viewed via Chrome

### Visual Stress:

- [Online Instructions](#) - Some people find certain text and background colour combinations difficult to read, while others prefer to always have a specific colour, such as white text on a black background. These guides explain how you can change the text and background colours in your operating system (Windows, Mac or Linux) and browser to better suit your needs.
- [ColorVeil](#) - Program that places a coloured overlay onto the screen. The colour and transparency levels can be adjusted to suit the user. Windows only.
- [Screen Shades](#) – Paid for programme that places a coloured overlay onto the screen. The colour and transparency levels can be adjusted to suit the user. OS X only

### Study Skills:

- [Study Skills Support](#)– study skills resources, including e-learning support so that students can effectively find, use, apply and present the information they need. One-to-one tutorials available.
- [The Study Space](#) - Academic guidance from the study skills publisher. Includes critical thinking, revision/exam skills, writing and referencing, group work/presentations and research methods.
- [ASK Survival Kit](#)- This is accessed through Kent University's website. You type in the date you begin your assignment and the date you need to submit, and it will aim to create a schedule for you.
- [BBC Skillswise](#) - Basic Maths and English study skills/tips/tasks. Very easy to use and has clear factsheets on numerous areas of numeracy and literacy. Particularly good for suggesting strategies, for example the 'look, say, cover, write, check' technique to aid spelling. Basic skills, but a good starting point.
- [Academic Referencing for blind or visually-impaired students, using NVDA or JAWS](#) – A useful guide produced by Ros Walker on how to use the Referencing Tab in Word with NVDA and JAWS