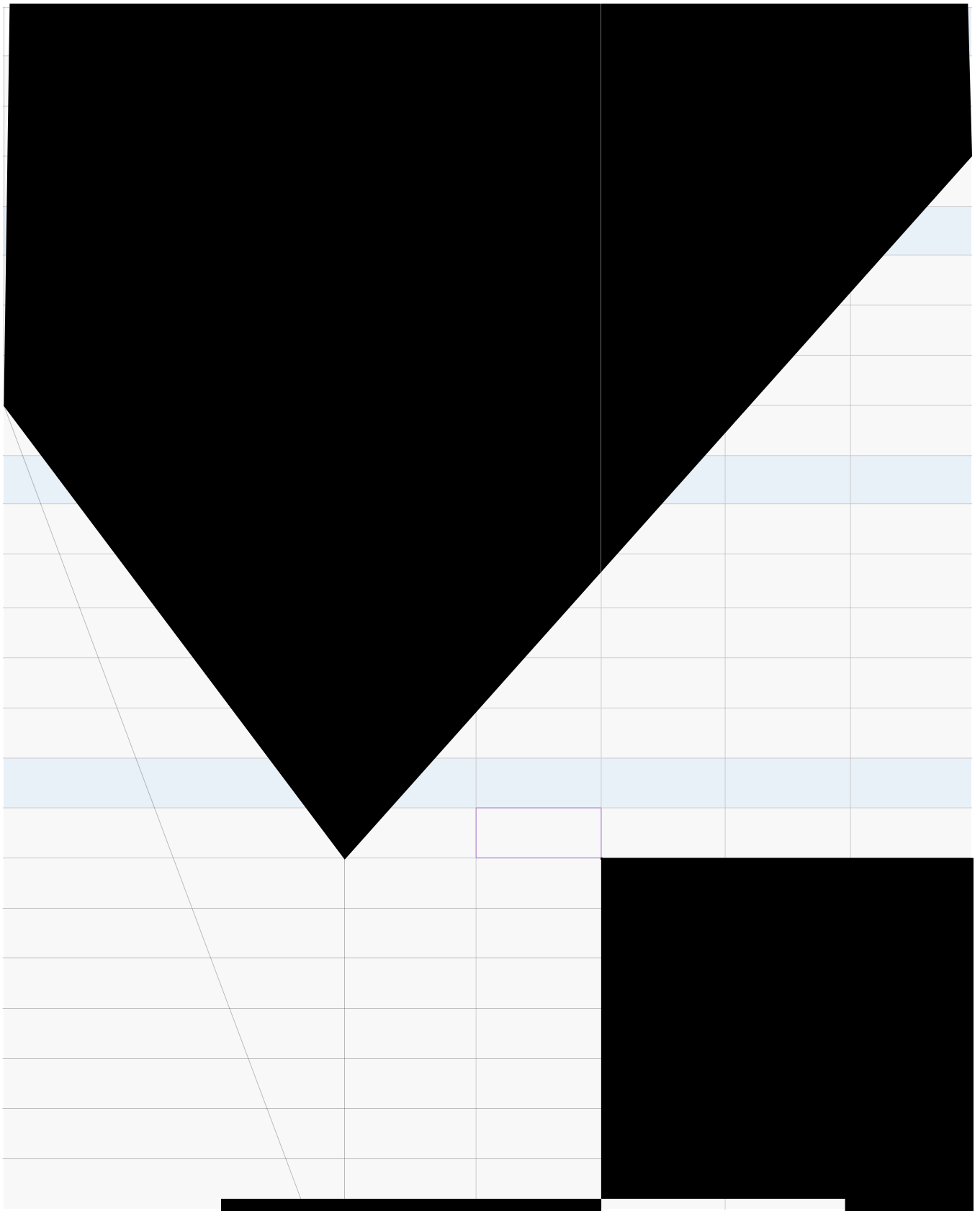


Quick Reference Guide to the Popular Text-to-Speech Literacy Tools of 2017

Accessibility	Capti Voice	Read & Write	Snap & Read	Kurzweil	Voice Dream
Supports vision impairments, I.e.g., magnification, screen readers					
Includes specialized Dyslexia font					
Includes high-quality text to speech					
Converts images to text (OCR)					
Text-to-Speech Engines	Capti Voice	Read & Write	Snap & Read	Kurzweil	Voice Dream
Ivona by Amazon					
Acapela					
NeoSpeech					
Nuance (includes ScanSoft, Vocalizer)					
Instructional Support	Capti Voice	Read & Write	Snap & Read	Kurzweil	Voice Dream
Includes integrated content sharing					
Includes tools for creating and taking assignments					
Includes tools for grading and returning assignments					
Promotes active reading strategies					
Includes integrated access to one or more cloud services: Google Drive, Dropbox, etc.					
Includes integrated 3rd party materials					
Includes integrated math tools (e.g., calculators, conversion tools)					
Comprehension	Capti Voice	Read & Write	Snap & Read	Kurzweil	Voice Dream
Includes graphic organizers					
Includes dictionary					
Offers text summarization					
Offers text simplification					
Gamified reading comprehension (context clues)					
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Product Summaries:

Capti Voice, Kurzweil, Read & Write, Snap & Read, and Voice Dream

Capti Voice

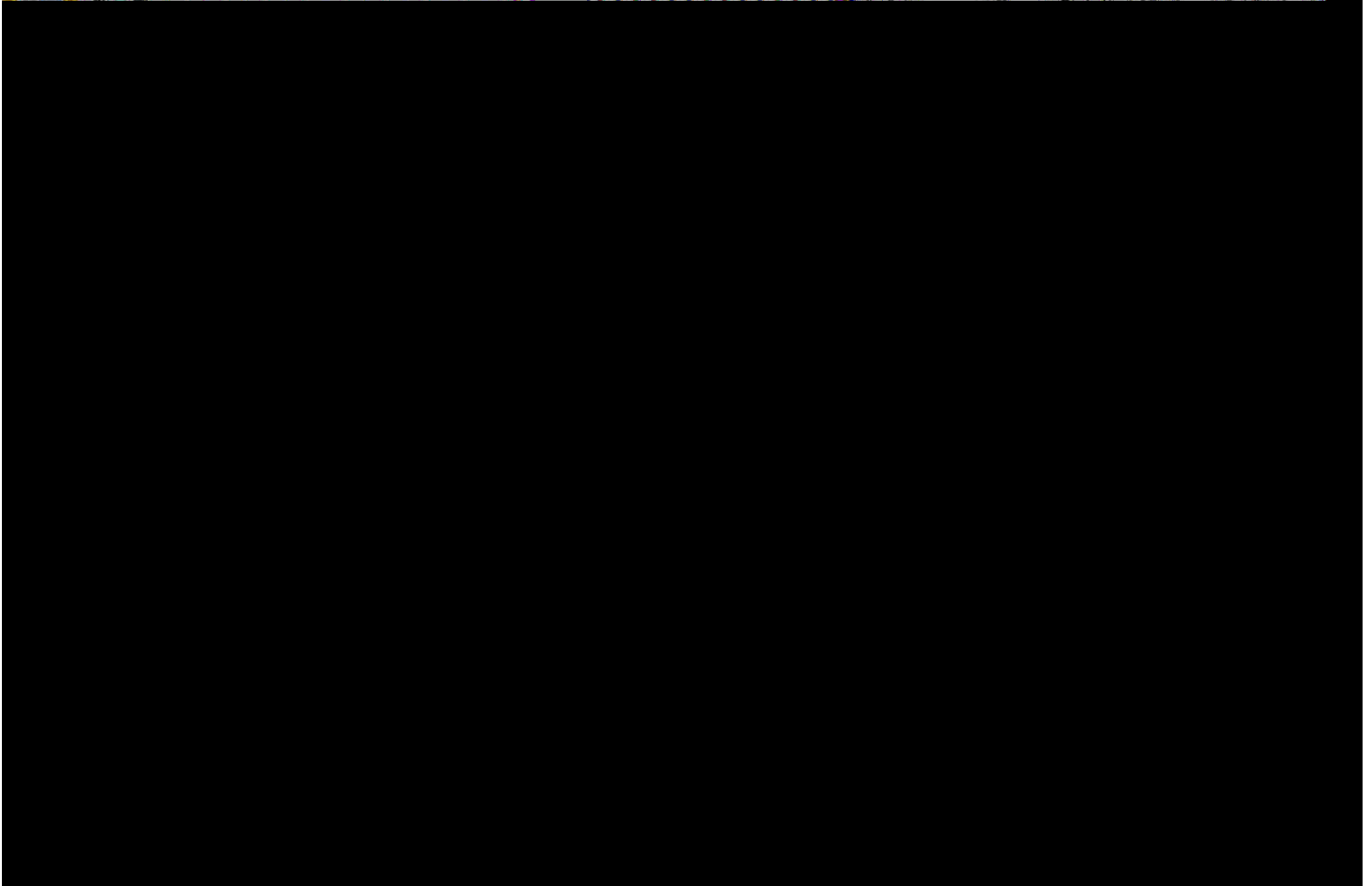
Capti Voice is a universally accessible literacy platform enabling teachers to support, monitor, and assess

Kurzweil 3000/Firefly

Kurzweil 3000 is designed around the idea of a word processor that can speak, and it shows in how Kurzweil looks and feels on both Windows and Mac: the two main supported platforms. Rounding out the offering is Firefly, a companion-program to Kurzweil 3000 implemented as a web app and as an iPad app. Firefly integrates with Bookshare and Google Drive, and is mostly focused on content consumption.

Integration with a document editor is the biggest strength of Kurzweil 3000, enabling students to author texts with writing supports, rich text formatting, highlights, comments, and even audio-notes. Kurzweil also includes specialized writing tools such as brainstorming charts and graphic organizers. This enables students to organize their ideas and more confidently write a research or analytic paper. Similar to Capti, Kurzweil allows educators to share content with students (although with less flexibility).

A downside to using Kurzweil 3000/Firefly is that the online and iPad versions fall short of their Mac/Windows counterparts when it comes to the availability of features. What is shared by all four versions is, unfortunately, the complexity of the user interface, which could be confusing to students and teachers alike. In addition, Kurzweil 3000 often requires users to convert documents to Kurzweil's file format and can take up a significant amount of storage space. Finally, Kurzweil limits its voice selection to the Acapela text-to-speech engine.



Snap & Read

Snap & Read is a Chrome browser extension that offers users text to speech for listening to what is displayed on

Voice Dream

Voice Dream is a mobile app for iOS and Android. Its primary focus is to provide maximum possible accessibility and customizability of text and speech. Voice Dream utilizes folders to organize content. You can also customize the colors, contrast, and fonts of text to increase readability for students with visual impairments. There is a custom pronunciation dictionary available in Voice Dream, which allows students to phonetically express certain words or names that the text-to-speech voices may mispronounce. This adds to the flow of reading and makes it easier to follow along without becoming distracted. Users can even set up document-specific speech rate and voice. Similar to Capti Voice, Voice Dream includes ability to import content from many sources including (but not limited to) iCloud Drive, browser, EverNote, Bookshare, and Gutenberg.

The biggest downside to Voice Dream is that it only works on mobile devices: iPhone, iPad, and Android. Voice Dream is mostly a consumer app, so there is no organization management account, no student monitoring analytics in place for teachers to keep track of student activity, no way for teachers to share content, and no premium support or professional development for educators. To get the most out of the app, there are in-app purchases for additional high-quality voices. The translation feature is restricted to Google Translate and requires the separate in-app purchase of “translation credits” to utilize.

