

Online Tools - Text to Speech

Updated July 2024

Text to Speech is offered as one of many accommodations that can be added to the student accommodation profile and/or Online Markup (If the Text to Speech Online Tool is set by the Assessment Administrator/Assessment Creator, or as an individual accommodation through the Online Administration screen). These are two other ways to add TTS. Online markup is used to specify which items/passages should have TTS enabled. Accommodations profiles serve as a way to assign a profile by Subject which follows the student for any test they take.

Additional resources:

[Create and Manage Accommodation Profiles](#)

Where to Start

The screenshot shows a student assessment interface. At the top, it says 'Semester 1 ELA Final [12 items]' and the user is 'Alvizures Canche, Aimee'. The main content area displays a passage titled 'A Change of Heart' by Mona Geedney, featuring an illustration of three boys. To the right of the passage, there are audio control buttons (play, stop, back, forward) and a 'Text to Speech Audio Settings' window. The settings window has a volume slider at 70%, a speaking rate selector with 'Medium' selected, and an accent dropdown menu showing 'English (US)', 'Spanish (US)', and 'Spanish (Mexican)'. A red arrow points from the speaker icon in the passage controls to the settings window.

Once the student has logged into the Student Portal and started an assessment, students will be able to utilize Text to Speech options if permission has been granted.

1. Text to Speech for Passages: If Text to Speech is enabled for passages, students can use the audio buttons located to the upper right of the passage to have the directions and passage read aloud to them.
2. Text to Speech Audio Settings: Click the speaker button at the right end of the teal green tool buttons to open the Text to Speech Audio Settings window.
 - Volume controls how loudly or softly the text is read aloud.
 - Speaking Rate controls how fast the text is read aloud.
 - Accent determines in what language the text should be read. Set Accent to "Spanish" if you have items written in Spanish to ensure they are pronounced correctly. This setting will not perform any translation.

Semester 1 ELA Final [12 Items] Abizures Canche, Aimee

All Items 1-8 9-12 Save Review Summary Exit Testing

"A Change of Heart" Play

A Change of Heart
by Mona Gedney



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1 Anthony called Terrell to see what was going on that Saturday. It was overcast and chilly — poor weather for a game of touch football or biking. **Why don't we go see what's going on at the mall?** Anthony suggested. He took a bus schedule from his desk drawer and saw that the next bus for the Oaks Mall departed shortly before noon. "Can you meet me at the bus stop by your house around 11:45?" Anthony asked.

3. Text to Speech will highlight each sentence as it reads the whole passage aloud. By highlighting part of the passage, only the highlighted section will be read aloud when the play button is clicked. The Text to Speech feature will highlight the individual words in a different color as it reads the text aloud.

Semester 1 ELA Final [12 Items] Abizures Canche, Aimee

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1. Play

Read this summary of the passage.

Anthony and Terrell decide to go to the mall on a Saturday. Terrell invites Alejandro to go with them, but Anthony is not happy because Alejandro acts strangely. When Alejandro's antics attract the attention of some eighth-grade girls, Anthony changes his mind about Alejandro.

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Which important detail is missing from the summary?

A. Anthony invites both boys to watch a basketball game at his house later that evening.

B. Alejandro almost misses the bus to the mall.

C. Anthony is embarrassed by Alejandro, but everyone else is amused.

D. Alejandro juggles hamburgers and gets the attention of some girls.

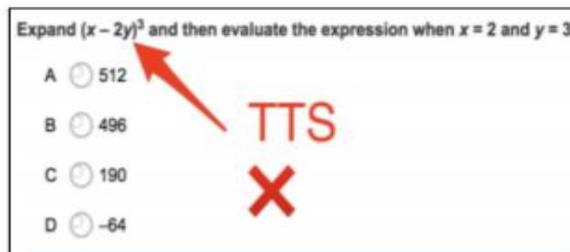
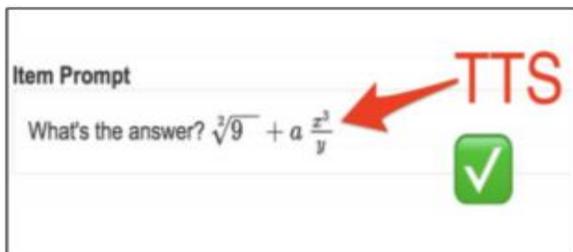
4. Text to Speech for Items: If Text to Speech is enabled for items, students can use the audio buttons located to the upper right of each assessment item to have directions, items, and answer choices read to them. Text to Speech will highlight individual sentences as it reads and each word as it reads aloud. Students can also highlight individual parts of the item and click the play button to have that part read aloud.

Text to Speech - Control bar



	Go back or skip ahead by the next “chunk” of text, such as a sentence or to the next answer.
	Start the Text to Speech playing.
	Stop Text to Speech. This will cause playback to start back at the beginning of the text area the next time the Play button is clicked.
	Pause Text to Speech. After pausing, when you click Play the system will continue reading aloud from where it left off.

When Text to Speech has been enabled for an assessment, you can hear items, answers, and passages read aloud by using the set of buttons in the upper right above them.



Text to Speech (TTS) Can Be Enabled for non-ELA Assessments: Enabling Text to Speech is no longer restricted to assessments with the Subject set to “ELA.” The TTS system can also read mathematical expressions in items when those expressions have been authored with the equation editor. Expressions that are created using only text formatting or that are displayed as images will still not be read aloud correctly.

Enhanced SSML options have been added to the Online Markup tool to customize how text will be read. Please visit [Online Markup for Item Bank Assessments](#) for additional information.