



# An Assessor's guide to ClaroRead

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This guide explains how ClaroRead software can be helpful for students with additional learning needs who qualify for the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA).

To get your Assessor copy, please visit [text.help/dsa-solutions](https://text.help/dsa-solutions)





# Guidelines for recommending ClaroRead for DSA students

ClaroRead is a simple, easy-to-use, flexible software solution that helps students to read, write, study, sit exams, and increase their confidence. ClaroRead supports reading and writing in students with the following:

## Breakdown of needs covered

- **Reading & writing difficulties** - including dyslexia, dyspraxia, dysgraphia and dyscalculia
- **Mental health problems** - including anxiety, OCD and stress
- **Visual impairment** - including blurred vision, visual stress, Irlen Syndrome, poor visual acuity and retinal migraines
- **Motion and dexterity** - including repetitive strain injury, fine motor control issues, and difficulty sitting at a desk
- **Cognition & sensory processing** - including ASD, ADHD/ADD, epilepsy, fatigue

### Where it works:

ClaroRead is available for Windows, macOS, Google Chrome and Microsoft Edge. Students can use ClaroRead on their Chromebook, laptop or MacBook.



## Learning needs

### Reading and writing difficulties

(including dyslexia, dyspraxia or dyscalculia)

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## How ClaroRead Helps

ClaroRead has a range of tools to support students with low confidence in reading, writing or spelling.

### Text-to-speech

Reads practically any text from a student's screen, using a range of high-quality voices including many languages and accents, and both male and female.

Configurable word-by-word highlighting helps students to follow text as it is read out.

Text-to-speech gives students control over their learning. They can choose to hear text instead of reading it, whenever they want, in a range of different ways. With headphones or an earpiece, they can follow text at the same speed as everyone else in the class or during an exam.

If the student wants to skim through text, they can turn the speed up and listen for a particular word or phrase.

Text-to-speech can also help when writing, as it makes for a great proofreading tool, helping students to hear the flow of a text and ensure they have used the right words, spelled them correctly, and used appropriate punctuation.

The student can listen to whole sentences and focus on their meaning, rather than having to distinguish individual letters and words. Reading fatigue is a common problem for dyslexic students – ClaroRead helps them to work longer and reduces fatigue.

Available as a mobile app is Claro ScanPen, a tool that allows students to take photos of printed text documents or test papers and hear the text read aloud. Simply select the text with a finger or stylus, and hear it spoken out loud.

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## How ClaroRead Helps

### Writing Tools

ClaroRead's advanced writing tools are there to help students with their writing and develop their confidence.

The Check button provides support with spelling. It helps students to understand why a word is incorrect, and assists them in selecting the right correction.

ClaroRead's spelling checker is smart enough to identify phonic approximations and incorrectly used homophones. It uses context to suggest the right correction. For example, school may be misspelt as skool, scool, scule, or skule, while a user may confuse *there, their, and they're*.

The spelling checker is designed to give documents a final, thorough check, for example before submitting an important essay.

ClaroRead's dictionary tool gives the user a quick definition for a word in any application. The tool also shows how they are broken down into syllables. It can even handle translations – great for students with English as a second language.

The dictionary tool gives users the confidence to use new words, resulting in richer writing. It includes a speaking dictionary (complete with pictures for common words) and thesaurus to help students to build their vocabulary.

### Font and spacing

Changing font size, typeface, and the spacing between words, lines, and paragraphs can amake reading easier. ClaroRead's toolbar includes buttons to easily change fonts and spacing across an entire Word document.

### Screen-masking

Using the reading ruler enables students to track text as they are reading, whether it is one line at a time or several paragraphs. As the student is in control of the ruler, it keeps them engaged and builds reading confidence.

## Learning needs

### Reading and writing difficulties

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## How ClaroRead Helps

### Word prediction

ClaroRead provides advanced word prediction in any application, helping students to express their ideas with clarity.

Word prediction can help students write more quickly, as they can choose the right word after a few letters rather than having to type it out in full.

ClaroRead learns as the student types and tries to predict the words they want to use next, as well as completing words they have started typing.

Word prediction can be configured to suit each student's writing and typing ability. For example, a student with dyspraxia might want a large range of words to appear after typing the first few letters, to minimise keypresses. Alternatively, a severely dyslexic student may rely on a smaller range of words, but need them to appear even if they have typed the letters in the wrong order.

ClaroRead's word prediction list includes pictures

alongside common words, helping students to select their words quickly.

ClaroRead includes subject-specific prediction dictionaries – including Archaeology, Biology, and Nursing. The Biology dictionary includes words and phrases such as amoeba, DNA sequencing, and ventricle.

Word prediction isn't just for minimising keystrokes. It can also help with spelling as it will never suggest an incorrectly spelled word – this can result in increased vocabulary and motivation, as the student trusts their ability to use more words.

### Save to audio/video

While ClaroRead's standard text-to-speech can handle large documents, it may be even more useful to save them to audio files, effectively converting them to an audio book which students can listen to as they choose.



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## How ClaroRead Helps

### Screen tinting and masking

A traditional aid for dyslexia, visual stress or Irlen Syndrome is to use a coloured filter or tinted glasses. ClaroView simulates a coloured filter or overlay for the whole screen. The student can choose the colour and strength of the tint – as prescribed by their optician, for example.

A pale filter can reduce contrast, which can make text easier and less tiring to read.

TrueBlack mode prevents dark colours from becoming washed out, preserving contrast and better simulating a physical filter (or tinted glasses).

Claro ScreenRuler masks the screen so students can focus on just the area they are reading. It applies a tinted strip (ruler) or a solid line (underline) across the screen that moves with the cursor and mouse pointer. The student can choose the colour of the tinted strip, as well as tinting the screen outside it. Many people find a pale ruler on a darkened screen helpful.

### Scanning (OCR)

ClaroRead does a great job of reading text from PDF files, Word documents, emails, web pages, and so on. However, some text cannot be read directly – this is inaccessible text. Examples of inaccessible text include text printed on paper, in-image files, or scanned documents that haven't been processed into text.

ClaroRead's Scan button can handle all of these using OCR. OCR, or optical character recognition, is the conversion of pictures of text (for example, a photo of a document) into computerised text that can be copied, edited, and so on. This also enables students to access any text – from a snippet of on-screen information to an entire textbook.

Students can use the Scan from Screen feature to quickly read out any text they see on their screen. This is particularly good for web pages, videos, images, and applications that do not allow text to be copied.

Claro's mobile apps, such as ClaroSpeak and Claro ScanPen, enable students to read text wherever they are.

## Learning needs

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## How ClaroRead Helps

### Claro AudioNote

This audio capture tool enables students to record and review lectures, complete with bookmarks, directly into PowerPoint presentations and Word documents.

Students with difficulty writing can use this to make their own notes, or to work informally with their study group or tutor.

### Speech recognition integration

Allows students to dictate text and have it transcribed by ClaroRead's inbuilt speech recognition functionality, saving time and enabling students to focus on the content of a text.

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A speech recognition tool such as Nuance's Dragon may be recommended for students who have severe difficulties with writing. ClaroRead integrates with Dragon, letting students use Dragon's dictation feature from the ClaroRead toolbar. If a user has not got Dragon Pro installed, ClaroRead will default to a high quality web server for standard dictation (or use the Windows system if in offline mode).

ClaroRead can also "echo back" the words or phrases Dragon recognises. This boosts user confidence, as well as dictation accuracy, by confirming that Dragon has recognised your speech correctly. Or if it hasn't, you'll know immediately so that you can correct the mistake.

For students using Macs or Chromebooks, ClaroRead uses macOS or Google's own speech recognition. Students can click ClaroRead's Dictate button, dictate text, and it will be entered into their current application.

## Learning needs

### Visual Impairment

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## How ClaroRead Helps

### **Text-to-speech / Save-to-audio / Speech Recognition Integration**

If a student has difficulty reading text, ClaroRead's text-to-speech can read it out for them.

The text-to-speech features described earlier under Reading and Writing Difficulties, as well as the save-to-audio feature and speech recognition integration, can all help students with visual impairment.

### **Screen tinting and masking**

ClaroView and ScreenRuler can help students with dyslexia or Irlen Syndrome. They may also help with other conditions, such as light-induced and retinal migraines.

Reducing contrast and blue light by specifying a pale red or amber overlay can make the screen more comfortable to read, enabling students to use their computer for longer without risking a migraine.

### **Font and Spacing**

Students with visual impairment will usually have their screen text enlarged already, for example using Windows' Ease of Access settings. ClaroRead's Font and Spacing buttons provide additional support, allowing a student to quickly increase font size, typeface, and spacing in Word documents.

### **Claro MagX**

The Claro MagX app turns a student's iPad, iPhone, or Android device into a high definition magnifier. This means that students with visual impairment will always have a magnifier with them.

### **Auto Converter**

Converts PDFs or image files (JPEG, PNG) to accessible Word, PDF, or plain text files. Enables text-to-speech on previously inaccessible files.



## Learning needs

### Cognition and sensory processing

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## How ClaroRead Helps

### ClaroView

Applies a tint to the whole screen, with a TrueBlack mode that simulates a physical filter. This can help students who experience difficulty concentrating and also serves as a study aid.

### Claro ScreenRuler

A screen-tinting and masking tool that applies a tinted strip or solid line across the screen that moves with the student's pointer and helps them focus on the current line or paragraph.

### Screen Masking

Claro ScreenRuler's screen masking can help students with ADHD/ADD to concentrate by focussing on smaller amounts of text at a time and reducing visual stress

### ClaroCapture

A study skills tool that helps students to collect information from various sources, including their own thoughts, and export it all to Word, PowerPoint, or Claroldeas.

One of ClaroCapture's most useful features is the ability to highlight a Word document or webpage, using different colours for different types of information, and then to extract it all into a single project, grouped by highlight colour. It will even create bibliographies automatically.

Having all the necessary information in one centralised location and customised to their preferences helps students keep track of their work and prevents overwhelm.

## Learning needs

### Cognition and sensory processing

[Take a tour](#)

## How ClaroRead Helps

### Text-to-speech

ClaroRead's high quality voices read with expression and tone. With many voices available, students can choose one that they enjoy listening to. Being able to easily change between voices and alter their speed can help students with ADHD/ADD to stay focussed.

ClaroRead's highlighting tool helps students to focus as text is being read out. Using headphones when reading can also help by cutting out aural distractions.

### ClaroIdeas

A mind-mapping and idea-creation tool that helps with research, planning, outlining, studying and presenting.

Users can create visual maps to assist with project planning, structuring the flow of written work, and more.

The tool helps students organise their thoughts, ideas, and notes, as well as the tasks involved in a project. This helps to break down complex problems, handle complicated instructions and maintain focus on a project.



## Learning needs

### Mental Health Issues

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## How ClaroRead Helps

### Ease of use

For students suffering from anxiety or stress, just knowing that they have a helping hand available can help. ClaroRead is always there to read text for them.

Most of ClaroRead's functionality is easily accessed from a simple toolbar. The toolbar can be configured to show only the buttons that a student uses.

### ClaroCapture

Allows students to gather information from many sources in preparation for writing essays, reports and so on. This helps students to stay organised and on top of their work. Those who struggle with memory recall no longer need to remember where they sourced their information, as it is recorded automatically and easily recoverable.

### Claroldeas

Gives students tools to cope with potentially stressful situations. Also helps students to organise their personal lives, from producing shopping lists to planning a holiday.

### Writing tools / Word prediction

ClaroRead's spelling checker, homophone checker, dictionary, thesaurus, and word prediction can all reduce the stress of producing written work, helping students to write text that is correctly spelled and punctuated, using a rich vocabulary. Over time, this can build literacy confidence.

### Save-to-audio / Save-to-video

Saving text to audio is great for students who prefer listening to text than reading it. Knowing that they have an easier way to handle their reading list can help with anxiety. Students can also listen to their documents in a more relaxed environment – while taking a walk, for example.

### Claro AudioNote

If a user is finding it hard to focus on a lesson or lecture, they can record it using AudioNote and review it later (in short sections if necessary), adding notes and so on.

## Learning needs

### Physical disabilities

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## How ClaroRead Helps

### Text-to-speech / Save-to-audio

For students who have difficulty sitting in one position for long, text-to-speech can help them continue to read text while taking time away from their screen. Saving longer texts as audio files is another option.

### Word prediction / Speech recognition integration

If a student's physical difficulties make it hard for them to use a keyboard, ClaroRead's word prediction or speech recognition reduce the number of keypresses needed to write.

### Scanning (OCR)

ClaroRead's document scanning lets students make electronic copies of textbooks, notes, and handouts, with text that can be read out by ClaroRead or copied into other applications. This means the student does not need to carry as many heavy books or papers. Being able to copy and paste text into other applications also reduces the need for typing.

### Claro AudioNote

Students with difficulty writing can record speech to make their own notes.



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[Desktop](#)

## For more information on Texthelp tools for DSA students

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email us at [dsagroup@texthelp.com](mailto:dsagroup@texthelp.com).

