

# The Commons Assistive Technology

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## *Android App Guide*

*Updated November 2016*

# AT Apps for Android Devices

This booklet provides an overview of some apps that you may find helpful when using your Android device.

In this booklet, you will find several categories of apps, including:

- Screen Readers
- Magnifiers
- Dictation
- Mind Mapping
- Writing Assistance
- Note Taking and Organization
- Hand Writing Recognition
- Hard of Hearing
- Book Readers
- Other Apps

Please note that the app prices included in this booklet reflect the prices listed in the Google Play store as of October 2016.

## Android Accessibility

Your Android device comes with a variety of built-in accessibility features, which can be accessed and activated by tapping Settings > Accessibility:

1. **TalkBack** – a screen reader. It provides spoken, audible, and sensory feedback to describe your actions and tell you about alerts and notifications. *(Note: on older devices, you may need to download TalkBack from the Google Play Store)*
2. **Explore by Touch** – a TalkBack feature that allows you to touch your device's screen and hear what's under your finger
3. **Magnification** – allows the user to zoom in on the entire screen. Users can also enter full-screen mode by triple-tapping the screen
4. **BrailleBack** – an add-on feature that lets users connect a refreshable Braille display to their device. You can download it via the Google Play Store

# Screen Readers

## Read and Write

- Reads documents with easy to follow on-screen highlighting
- Includes a “Speak as I Type” function, word prediction, spell checker, and Talking and Picture Dictionaries
- Cost: 30 day free trial (after which text-to-speech capabilities remain free)

## IVONA Text-to-Speech

- Compatible with many Android applications: works with Google Maps to provide voice navigation; pairs with ebook readers (e.g., Cool Reader); reads online content, articles, PDF documents, and RSS feeds
- Additional voices available for download
- Cost: free

## TextDetective

- Detects text using device’s camera and reads it aloud
- Text can be edited, copied, and pasted into documents, emails, or other apps
- Cost: free

# Magnifiers

## Magnifier

- Magnifies input from device’s camera
- Includes zoom and exposure controls; allows user to invert colours of display
- Includes flashlight mode for low light situations
- Freeze, save, and share images
- Cost: free

## Brighter and Bigger

- Magnifies input from device’s camera up to 20X
- User can increase size, brightness, and clarity of image
- Cost: free

## Magnificent Magnifier

- Simulates a magnifying glass using device’s camera (can simultaneously activate device’s flash for extra light)
- Zoom level depends on device’s capabilities

### Fleksy

- Increase your keyboard size to 114%
- Includes word prediction
- Cost: free (includes some in-app purchases)

## Dictation

### Dragon Mobile Assistant

- Access your device using voice commands (e.g., send and receive texts, make calls, post social media updates, access emails, search the internet)
- Supports email dictation
- Cost: free

### ListNote

- Dictate notes to your device
- Notes are indexed and searchable
- Cost: free (upgrade to Pro version for \$5.48)

### AudioNote

- Note taking + dictation app - record audio as you're taking notes
- Each note links to audio from when it was typed - tap note to hear audio
- Insert text, drawings, and photos; add highlights
- Import and take notes directly on PDFs
- Lite version free; full version = \$8.38

## Mind Mapping

### Simple Mind

- Create mind maps and export them as PDF, PNG, HTML, or TXT files
- Add icons, colours, and styles to maps
- Also available for PC download
- Lite version free (full version \$6.99)

### Mind Meister

- Create mind maps and export them as RTF, PDF, or image files
- Add icons, colours, and styles to maps; play map-based presentations on device
- Cost: free

# Writing Assistance

## Writer

- Distraction-free word processor
- Allows you to make lists, italicize and bold type, and use headers
- Cost: free

# Note Taking and Organization

## Simple Note

- Note taking apps with simple, distraction-free interface
- Tag your notes for easy searching
- Cost: free

## Sticky

- Improve organization by creating notes and reminders
- Collect notes in “notebooks”
- Send “Sticky” content to your email and social media accounts
- Cost: free

## Evernote

- Write notes; collect articles, PDFs, and images; make to-do lists
- All content is searchable, so you can find what you need quickly
- Cost: free

## Mic Note

- Combines the functionality of a notepad and recorder – allows you to take notes while recording audio at the same time
- Save timestamps while you are typing for fast playback at specified positions

## CamScanner

- Use device’s camera to scan documents and convert the image into readable text
- Add annotations to scanner documents
- Sync documents across devices
- Lite version free; premium subscription ranges from \$4.99-\$49.99

# Hand Writing Recognition

## [Squid](#)

- Take handwritten notes using your finger or stylus
- Cut, copy, and paste between notes; organize notes into notebooks
- Export notes as PDF, PNG, or KPEG files; share via email, Evernote, etc.
- Features such as PDF Import and cloud syncing services available as in-app purchases
- Cost: free

## [INKredible](#)

- Distraction-free handwriting app
- Includes close-up writing mode
- Variety of pen/writing styles available as in-app purchases
- Cost: free

## [WritePad](#)

- Take notes with finger or stylus and app converts them into typed text; adapts to your style of writing over time
- Built-in spell checker
- Sync with Evernote, Dropbox, Google Docs, etc.
- Cost: \$6.54

# Hard of Hearing

## [Hearing Aid with Replay Lite](#)

- Amplifies surrounding sound and allows you to create recordings
- To be used with earphones or Bluetooth headsets
- Lite version free; upgrade to full version for \$3.60

## [SmartHear](#)

- Amplifies surrounding sound
- Allows you to customize your audio preferences
- To be used with earphones or Bluetooth headsets
- Cost: free

# Book Readers

## [Go Read](#)

- Reads EPUB and DAISY files aloud
- Access and download content directly from Bookshare (membership required)
- Cost: free

### VBookz

- Reads PDF files aloud
- Interactive cursor allows user to follow along, pause reading, and repeat line
- Additional voices available for purchase (16 languages available)
- Cost: free

### Voice Dream Reader

- Reads PDF, EPUB, and DAISY files
- Highlights word/line as it reads
- Change voice and reading speed; customize font, font size, colour themes, etc.
- Continues reading after you've locked the screen
- Load files directly from your device, or via DropBox and OneDrive
- Cost: \$14.07

### Darwin Reader

- Reads DAISY files aloud; highlights text as it's read
- For low-vision users: app completely navigable using arrow keys, all menus fully vocalized
- Change font and background colour, text size, font spacing, voice speed, etc.
- Connects to Dictionary.com and Wikipedia for easy reference
- Free trial available for 14 days; upgrade to full version for \$14.95

## Other Apps

### IDEAL Accessible App Installed

- Platform for downloading and installing accessibility apps created by IDEAL Group (e.g., ePub Creator, accessible YouTube Viewer, accessible MP3 Player, etc.)
- You can select apps you wish to install

### Peak

- Brain training app
- 20+ games designed to train memory, focus, problem solving, mental agility, and language skills
- Provides performance reviews, personalized brain "workouts," analytics, and statistics
- Cost: free

### gFlash+

- Create and edit flashcards
- Can use in-app templates, or import flashcard information from Google Sheets
- Insert photos and videos into flashcards
- Cost: free

### [Text Fairy](#)

- Convert your device into a mobile text scanner
- Scan documents using device camera; convert to PDFs and edit extracted text; recognizes printed text from 50 languages
- Cost: free

### [Dictionary](#)

- Developed by Merriam Webster
- Listen to words pronounced by native English speakers
- Use voice search to search for words without having to type them
- Cost: free

### [MyScript Calculator](#)

- Recognizes on-screen handwriting – perform mathematical calculations using your own handwriting
- Cost: free

### [Speak N Talk Calculator](#)

- Reads entered numbers, answers, and formulas, and responds to voice commands (e.g., “What is  $1 + 1$ ?”)
- Can be used with IVONA Text-to-Speech voices
- Lite version free

### [Livescribe+](#)

- Pairs with Livescribe 3 smartpen to instantly sync what you write on paper directly to your device
- Tag notes for easy searching; record and play back audio; add photos to notes; convert handwritten notes to text; export files as PDFs
- Cost: free

### [Dictadroid](#)

- Record voice dictations, notes, meetings, etc.
- Lite version free; upgrade to full version for \$4.46



### AccessNote

- Notetaking app for blind/visually impaired users
- Keyboard optimized for both QWERTY and braille display keyboards -
- Cursor tracking allows you to keep your place when taking a note
- Optimized for use with VoiceOver
- Cost: free

### iStudiez Pro

- Organization app – great for staying on top of your schedule, homework, and due dates
- Keep track of grades and calculate your GPA
- Syncs across Apple devices
- Cost: \$2.59

### Tap Tap See

- Designed to help visually impaired/blind users identify objects
- Take picture of object and app will say what object is
- Cost: free

# *The Commons*

Main Floor, QEII Library, Memorial University

**Phone:** 864-6159

**Email:** [commonsat@mun.ca](mailto:commonsat@mun.ca)

**Website:** [thecommons.mun.ca](http://thecommons.mun.ca)

