Speech and Speak Screen, iOS 11.1

Introduction

Similar to the speech tool on Mac OSX, Apple has provided speech support on its iDevices which includes the iPod, iPhone and iPad. This is a universal support tool that allows you to speak selected text within an app. There is a secondary way to have text spoken out loud called speak screen which speaks all of the text on the screen. This may be a useful tool for students who may have excellent comprehension but whose reading abilities are lacking.

Learning Objectives

Completion of this tutorial will give you experience with the following:

- • Have selected text read out loud
- • Have the contents of the screen read out loud
- • Configure components of the speech tool
- • Familiarization of the speech tool bar when using the Speak Screen function
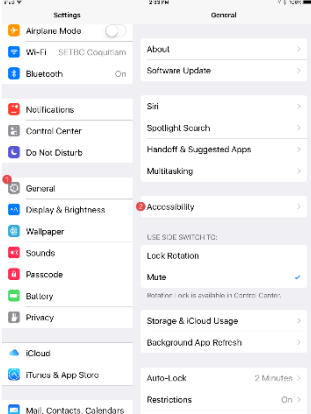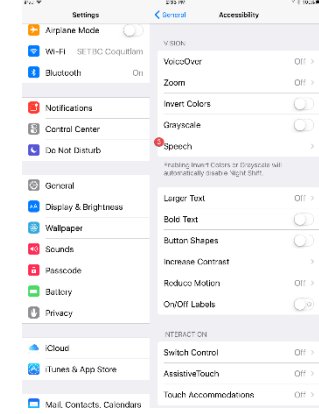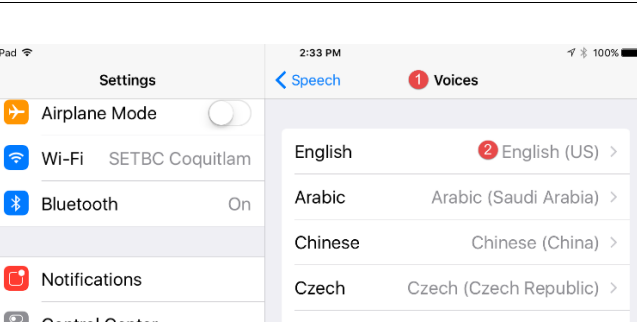
This tutorial assumes

- • that you have an iOS device (iPod, iPhone or iPad)
- • that you have as a minimum, *iOS7* installed on your device for "Speak selected text" and *iOS8* installed on the device to enable "Speak Screen"

Case Study

Kirby is a grade 5 student who reads at a grade 2 level. As there is a wide discrepancy between his reading level and the grade level material, the gap between him and his peers is quickly increasing. Using an iPad to access materials downloaded from ARC-BC, Kirby is able to have text read out loud to him.

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Using the Speech and Speak Screen tool
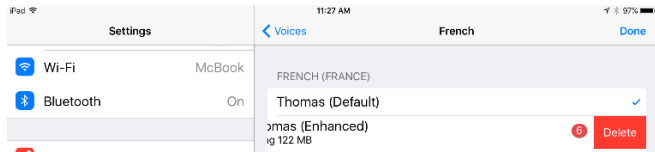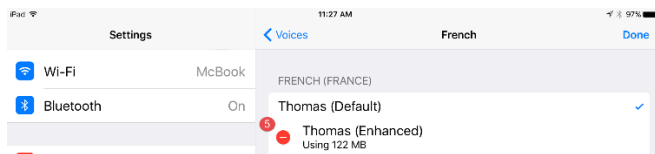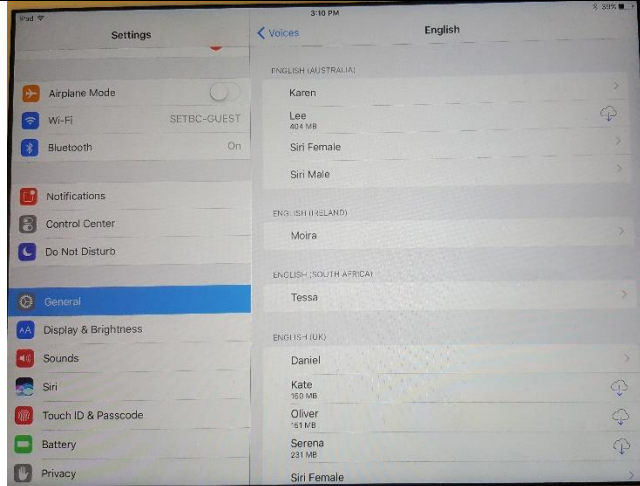
1	Prior to using the text to speech tools, **ensure** that speech settings are configured. Tap on the Settings icon . Tap on the ⚙ General icon (1) and select the Accessibility menu (2) on the right side of the screen. Under the Vision category, select "Speech" (3).	A. jGo to Accessibility menu. B. Go to Speech sub-menu
2	The speech sub-menu offers many **configuration opportunities** including enable Speak Selection (1) and enable Speak Screen (2). These options must be turned on (indicated with by a green fill) in order to use the corresponding features. There are also options for adjusting the speaking rate (3), and highlighting content as it is being read (4). **Selecting** Voices (5) opens up the voice menu which allows selecting the voice that is used to read text.	
3	In the voice menu, there is the option to select voices in different languages. Some of the more common languages will offer multiple voice options.	

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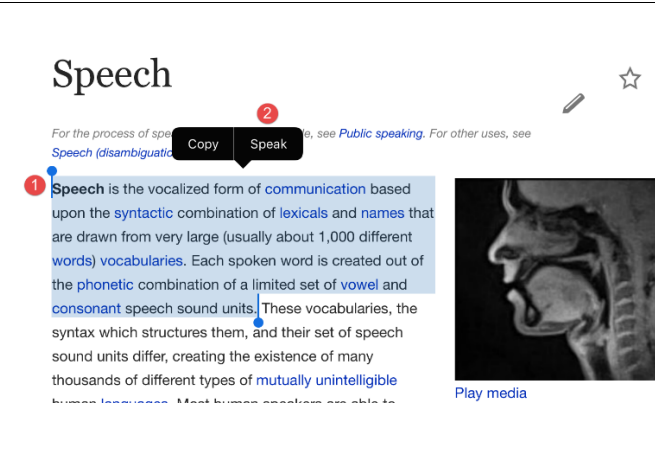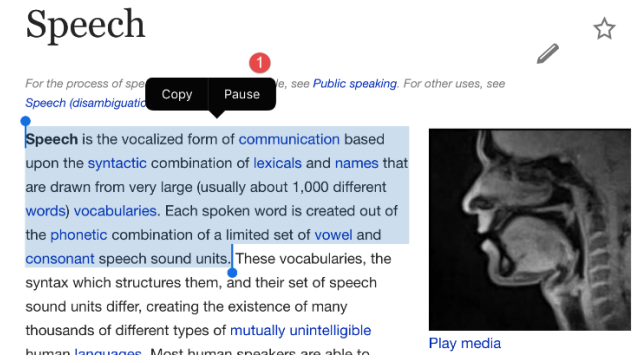|		
	The selected voice is indicated with a check mark (1). Voices that are labelled with a cloud require a download (3) and will take up storage space on the device (2). To **remove** a previously downloaded voice, **tap** "Edit" in the top right hand corner (4). A red circle (5) will appear to the left of the voices that are downloaded. Tap the circle and the word "delete" will appear (6) to the right of the voice. Tap delete to remove the voice. Newer devices and the most recent iOS version will provide the greatest selection of voices.	
4	To use the speech tool, highlight text in an app by depressing a finger on a word. Two blue markers will appear indicating the beginning and end of the selection (1). These markers can be moved by dragging them to a new position. When the markers have been set, an options menu will appear above the selected text. Tap on "Speak" (2).	

5	As the iPad reads the selected text, the "Speak" button will now change to say "Pause". Tap on pause at any point to stop the speech. Tap on "Speak" to resume speech.	
6	Speak screen is an alternate method of having text read out loud. Instead of selecting specific text, the entire page is read from top to bottom. To activate it, swipe down from the top bezel on the iPad with two fingers. The iPad will begin reading all the text it finds on the screen. This feature is not as robust as selecting individual text to speak. There are frequent times when the iPad will not find any speakable text within an app. This may sometimes be overcome simply by moving the screen up or down. As the iPad reads the text, media controls will appear at the top of the screen (1). Tap the left facing arrow to minimize the tool bar (2). The turtle and rabbit icons will slow and speed the speech rate (3). The speech can be paused at any time (4). Navigation arrows (5) allow control over the text passage that is being read. Speak Screen can be cancelled by pushing the 'X' button (6).	