

# Why is Assistive Technology So Important?

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Assistive Technology Advisor and Speech-Language Pathologist  
[www.innovativespeech.com](http://www.innovativespeech.com)

# AT is an essential part of my life and SLP practice

- As a speech-language pathologist, I've been helping children and adults for 37 years.
- Early in my career, I primarily helped stroke and brain injury survivors to improve communication and thinking.
- Tech offered independent practice opportunities with immediate feedback, a game-changer for families wanting faster and more complete progress.
- As I raised my four kids, I started helping friends help their kids with assistive tech- very helpful for kids with ADHD, speaking, understanding, reading and writing challenges.
- It's great for overwhelmed students in higher ed and adults juggling multiple demands.
- Assistive tech can create life changing immediate changes to improve quality of life!



# We need to do more to empower others with challenges

- Tech helps my elderly parents and others with challenges.
- Not enough is done to support seniors with tech.
- Features keep improving on our everyday devices.
- Now with AI, potential benefit is even greater!
- Certain segments of society have been left out- especially adults with developmental disabilities and older adults. They need our help!
- We need to do more to get the word out about using AT to improve lives.
- Assistive tech implementation involves not just the devices, apps and features- but skilled training and follow up is essential for success.
- It's hard to keep up and know which tech be a good fit for a person's needs.



# IST (Innovative Speech Therapy)

[www.innovativespeech.com](http://www.innovativespeech.com)

- [Provide tech advice](#) and help with implementation strategies to support communication, cognition, literacy, learning, organization and getting things done!
- [Offer 1:1 virtual services](#)- all ages and abilities
- [Collaborate with teams for professional development and tech implementation](#)
- [Get going with Google Course](#)
- [ElderTech Advisor Course and Network](#)
- [Library of tech webinar recordings](#)
- [Assistive Technology Network of Greater Washington](#)



Innovative Speech Therapy

About Online Learning Blog Work With Me Resources Books Contact

**Innovative Speech Therapy**

**Hello and welcome!**

Innovative Speech Therapy offers a uniquely effective approach to therapy empowering individuals, families and professionals with state-of-the-art local and long-distance therapy, coaching and training programs.

Joan Green is a licensed and certified speech-language pathologist with many years of experience helping children and adults who have communication, cognitive, literacy and learning challenges.

Let's get started Join our email list

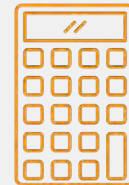
30 YEARS

Improving Communication, Cognition and Productivity with Tech-Savvy Strategies, Solutions and Support

# Federal investments are critical to empower constituents to leverage the benefits of AT

By definition, AT is “Assistive technology (AT) is any item, piece of equipment, software program, or product system that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of persons with disabilities.”

**Need more training and support for people left behind by tech or unaware of all that it can do!**



# Communication, Cognitive & Learning Challenges

- Speaking
- Understanding
- Hearing
- Reading
- Writing
- Thinking
- Paying attention
- Remembering
- Managing time
- Executive Functioning

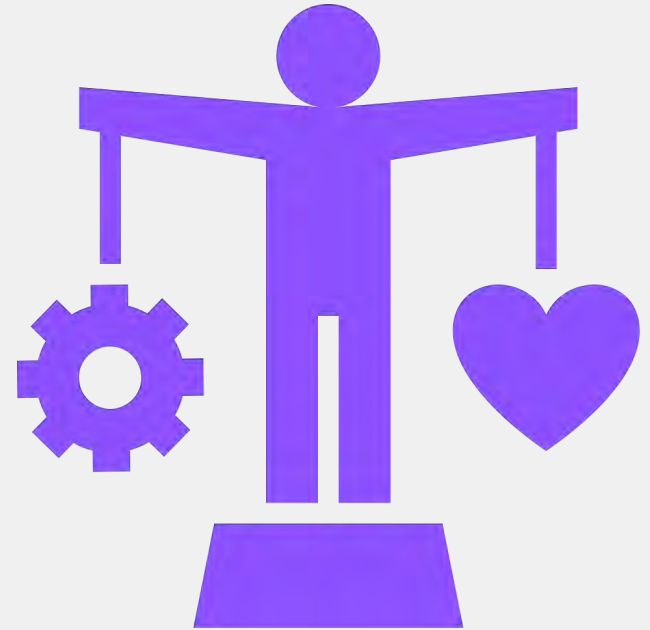


- Apraxia
- Dysarthria
- Aphasia
- Intellectual disabilities
- Dysgraphia
- Dyslexia
- Mild Cognitive Impairment
- Dementia
- Auditory Processing Disorder
- ADHD
- Developmental Delays
- Expressive Language Disorder

# Leverage tech's benefits- find the ideal balance

Maximize positive impact of strengths

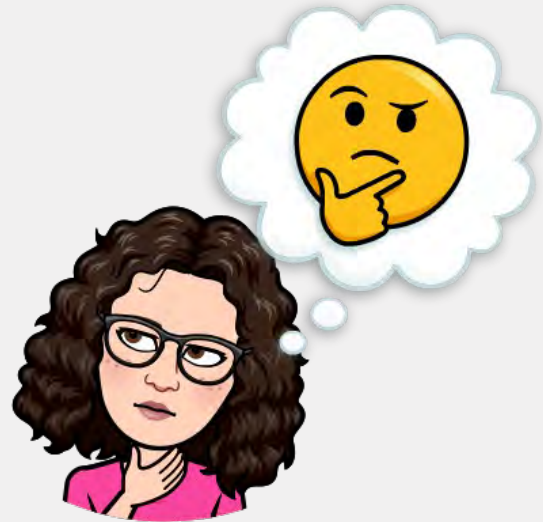
Minimize negative impact of weaknesses



## New Tech Mindset

“How can tech help support a person’s strengths and minimize weaknesses?”

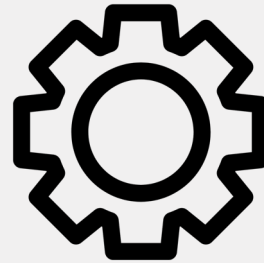
“How can family, schools, employers and a person’s “team of support” collaborate for strategic tech implementation?”



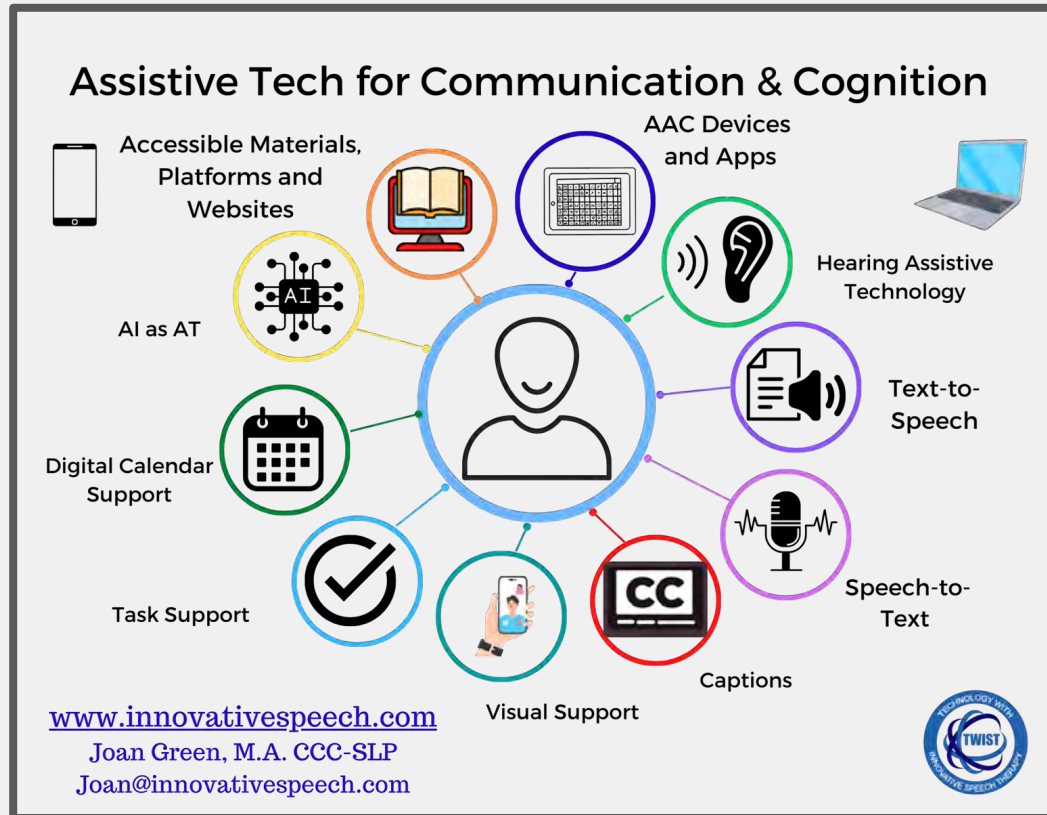


# Universal Design- built in accessibility features

Help people of all ages access information, express thoughts and knowledge, stay engaged and participate.



# Assistive Tech for Communication and Cognition



# AAC Devices and Apps

Dedicated devices for AAC-  
Augmentative and Alternative  
Communication.

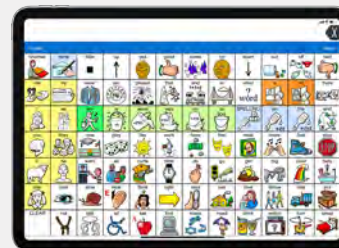
- Pictures
- Symbols
- Words



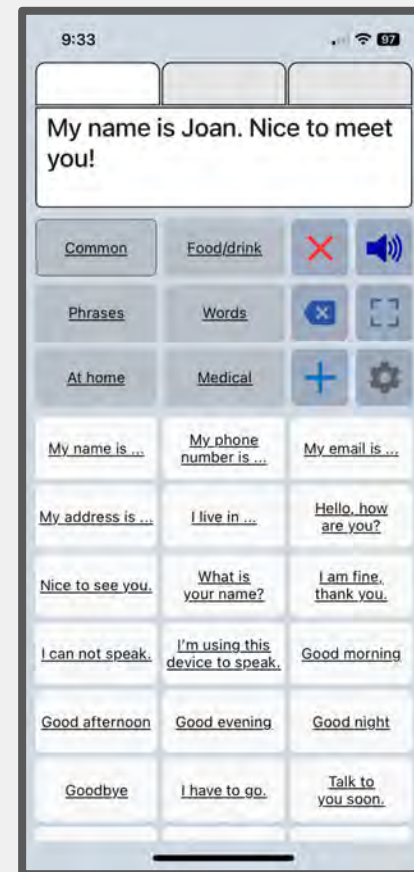
TD-Snap



Project-Core



LAMP Words for Life



Speech Assistant AAC App-  
iOS and Android

# Hearing Assistive Technology



- Hearing aids- amplify certain frequencies, bluetooth pairs AT to it- microphones, TV, phone
- Flashing lights and vibration
- Over-the-counter for mild-mod loss
- iOS- Live Listen, customize airpods
- Get notified of unsafe hearing levels



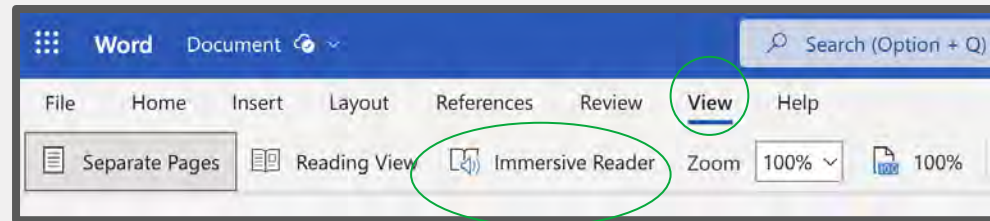
# Text-to-Speech/ Read Aloud

- It's a feature on all current computers, phones and tablets for free!
- It's also available for browsers- Edge, Chrome and Safari.
- The process depends on the device, operating systems and format of the material.
- There are lots of options!
- Great for people who need help with reading- small print, speak another language, vision impairment.
- Helps with proofreading

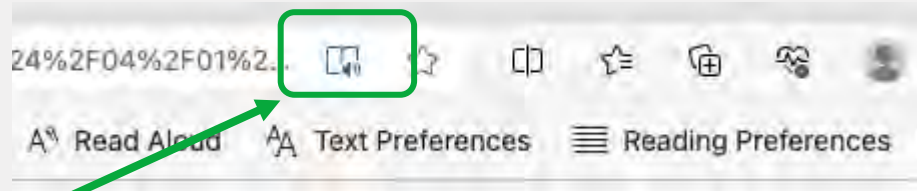


# Immersive Reader- Edge, Microsoft 365

- View > Immersive Reader
- Read Aloud- while highlighted
- Change the voice and speed
- Change text preferences
- Declutter the page on websites- if reader view available



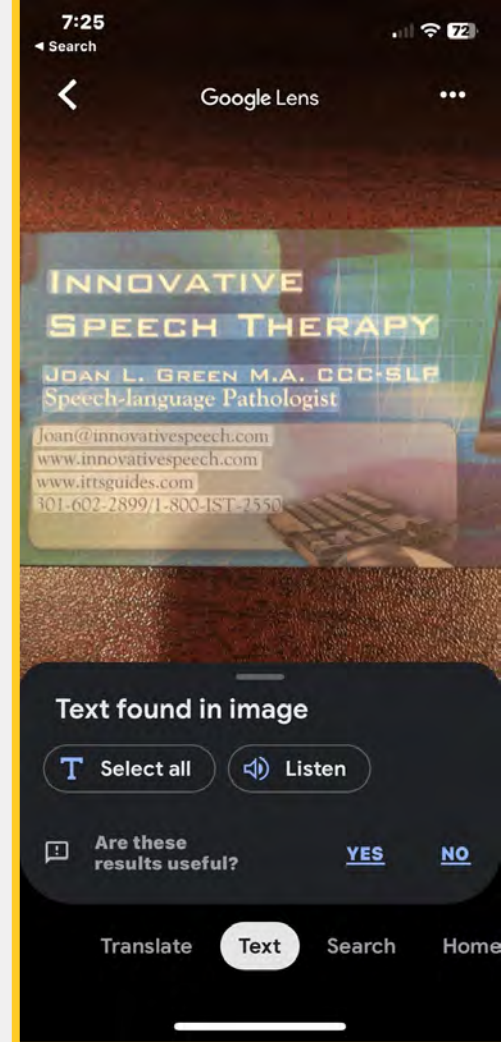
# Declutter website pages-reader view- Safari, Edge, Chrome Extensions



# Google Lens



- This app uses the camera on a tablet or smartphone
- On iOS use the Google app and tap on the Lens icon.
- Select either “search” or “text” on the bottom depending on your version.
- Take a picture of text in environment (a sign, book, handout), tap the captured text and it reads it out loud immediately! It can also translate.
- Free



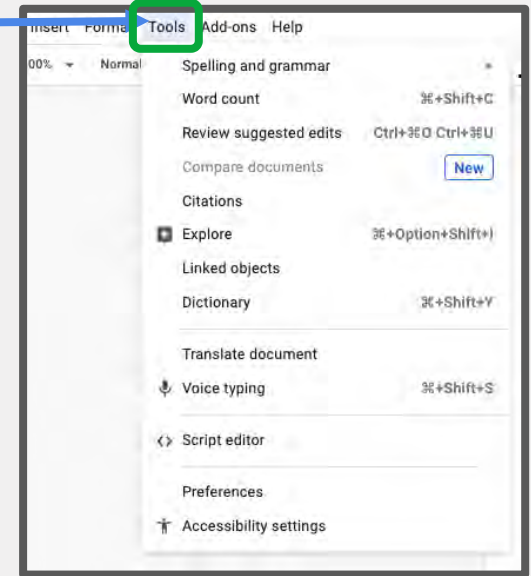
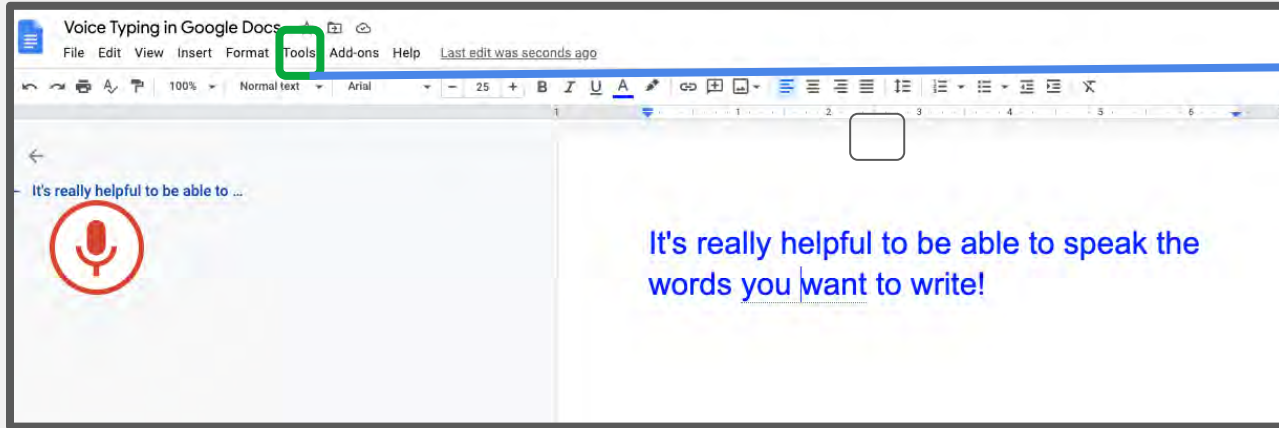
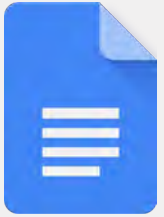


# Speech-to-text/ Speech Recognition

- Helpful when typing is difficult.
- It's a feature on all current computers, phones and tablets for free!
- Whenever there is a cursor blinking, you should be able to enter text with your speech.
- The process depends on the device, operating systems and format of the material.
- Mobile devices- look for microphone in keyboard
- Google Docs- Tools> Voice Typing

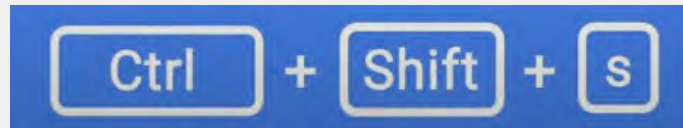


# Voice Typing in Google Docs

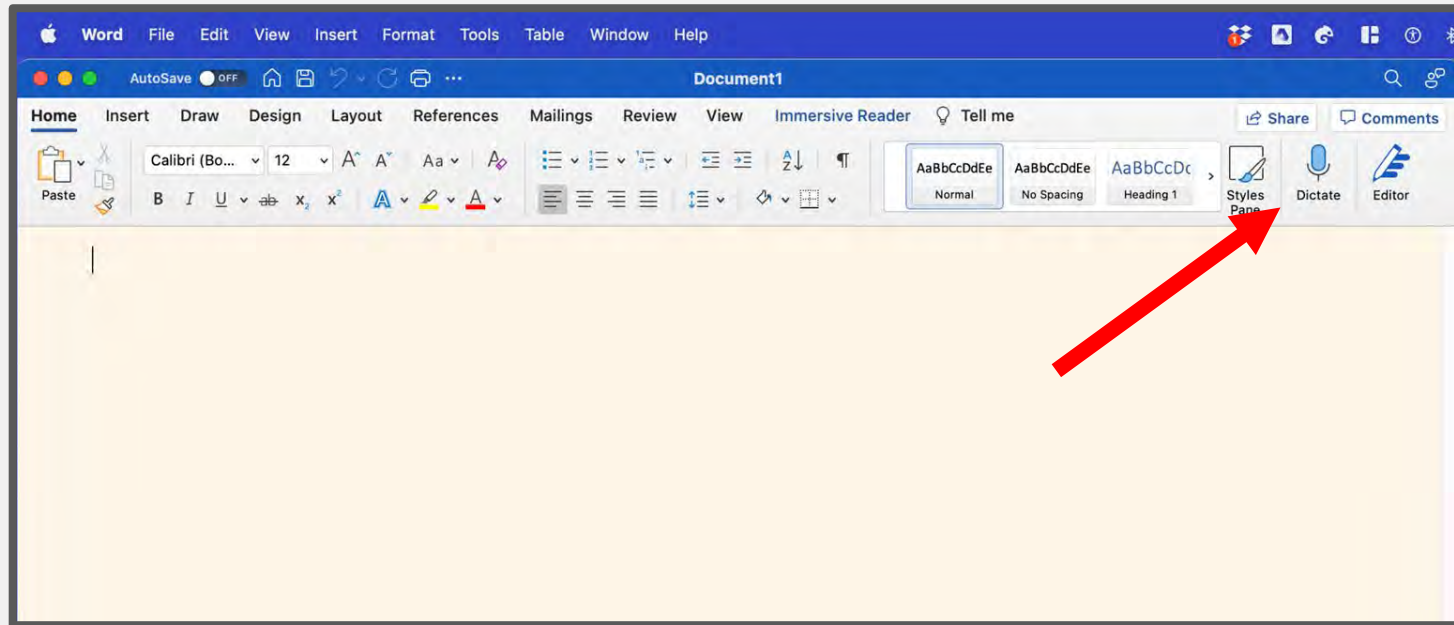


[Docs.google.com](https://docs.google.com)

Tools Menu

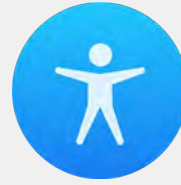


# Dictation in MS Word 365 and Word for Web



# Device Accessibility

All current  
computers & mobile  
devices can turn  
your speech into text



Windows logo + H



Mac- Fn Fn



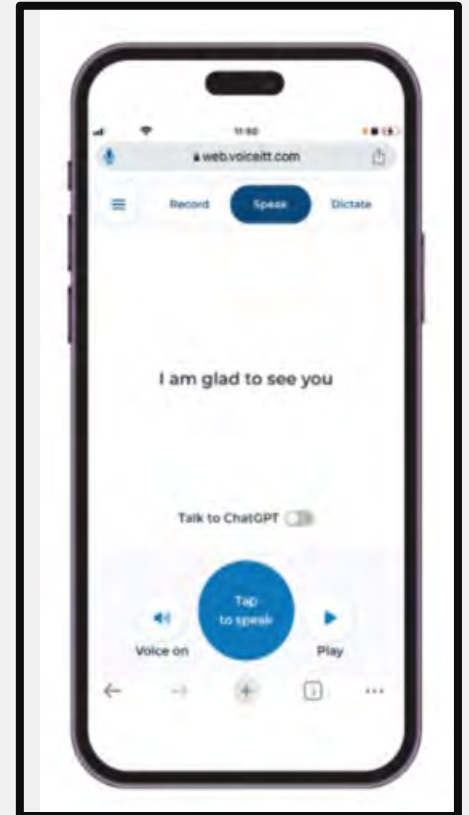
Microphone icon or  
Search + d

Shortcuts for dictation on  
computers

# New Speech Recognition for Nonstandard Speech

[Voiceitt2](#)- Automatic speech recognition for people with speech disabilities, aging voice and accents. [RAZ Memory Cell Phone](#)

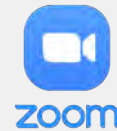
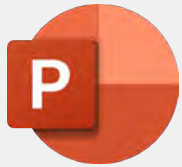
[Google's Project Relate](#)- App to transcribe text, repeat speech, or use Google Assistant



# Captions & Transcriptions

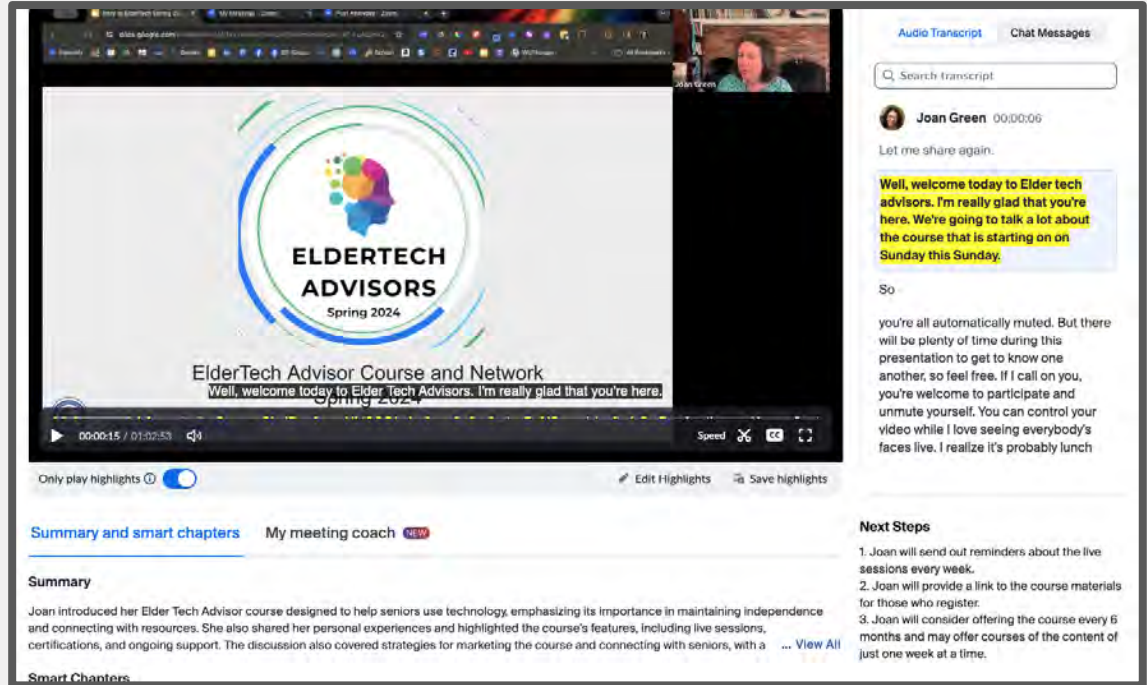
Captions are free but the feature may need to be set up in advance.

Transcription may have errors. The quality is dependent on the speaker and environment.



# Terrific Note-taking tools with AI

- Meeting summaries
- Smart recordings
- Action steps
- Images
- Study tools
- [Clean](#)
- [Otter.ai](#)
- [Zoom](#)



The screenshot displays a Zoom meeting recording interface. The central video player shows a presentation slide for "ELDERTECH ADVISORS Spring 2024" with the text "ElderTech Advisor Course and Network" and "Well, welcome today to Elder Tech Advisors. I'm really glad that you're here." Below the video player, there are options for "Only play highlights" (checked), "Edit Highlights", and "Save highlights".

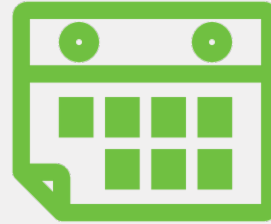
To the right of the video player is a transcript panel. It includes a search bar for the transcript and a message from "Joan Green" at 00:00:06. The transcript text reads: "Let me share again. Well, welcome today to Elder tech advisors. I'm really glad that you're here. We're going to talk a lot about the course that is starting on on Sunday this Sunday." Below this, there is a section for "So" and a paragraph: "you're all automatically muted. But there will be plenty of time during this presentation to get to know one another, so feel free. If I call on you, you're welcome to participate and unmute yourself. You can control your video while I love seeing everybody's faces live. I realize it's probably lunch".

Below the transcript is a "Next Steps" section with a list of three items: "1. Joan will send out reminders about the live sessions every week.", "2. Joan will provide a link to the course materials for those who register.", and "3. Joan will consider offering the course every 6 months and may offer courses of the content of just one week at a time."

At the bottom of the interface, there is a "Summary and smart chapters" section. The "Summary" text states: "Joan introduced her Elder Tech Advisor course designed to help seniors use technology, emphasizing its importance in maintaining independence and connecting with resources. She also shared her personal experiences and highlighted the course's features, including live sessions, certifications, and ongoing support. The discussion also covered strategies for marketing the course and connecting with seniors, with a ... View All".

# Visual Supports

- Use built in features on our devices to support communication, memory, and independence
- Learn the language of tech
- Photos
- Calendar
- Maps
- Contacts
- Video





# Simpler Video Call Options



Grandpad



Amazon's  
Echo Show-  
Drop-in



Sociavi360



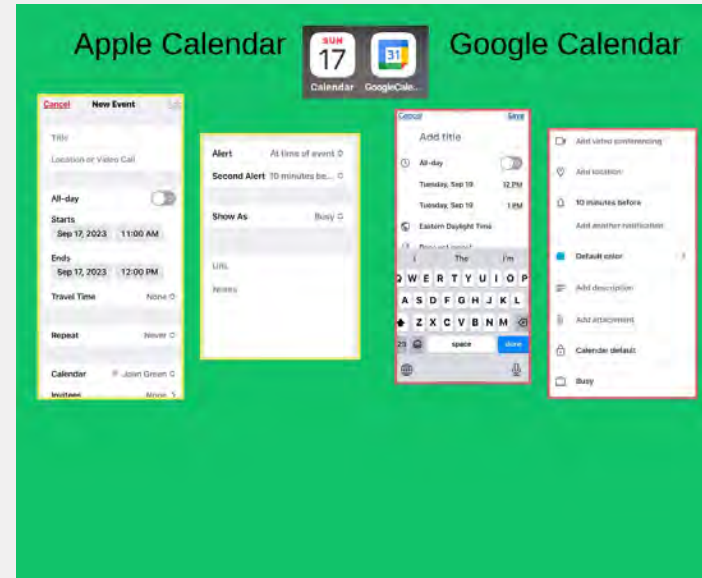
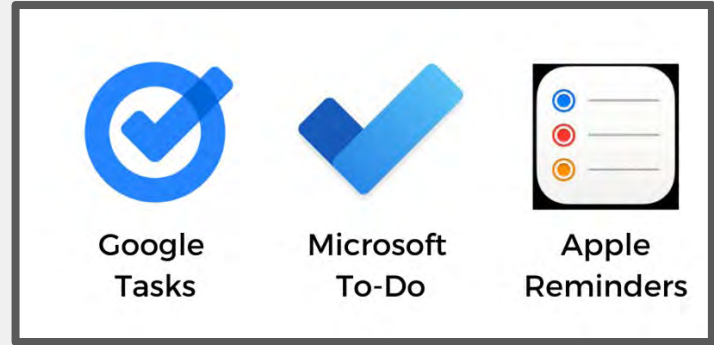
ViewClix



Onscreen-  
use TV

# Task and Calendar Support

- Help with communication and memory.
- Reduce stress and support mental health.
- Stay digitally organized and plan ahead
- Break projects into small tasks
- Predict time tasks will take
- Check them off when complete



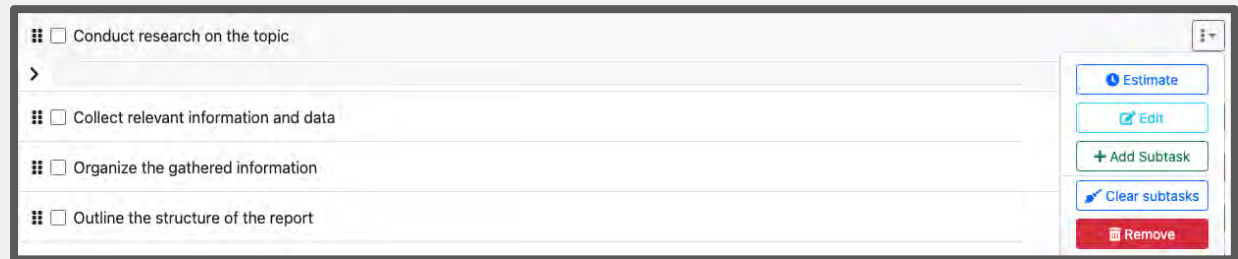
# Goblin Tools

<https://goblin.tools/>

- Magic ToDo- Helps break down tasks
- Free
- Web based
- Android & iOS app

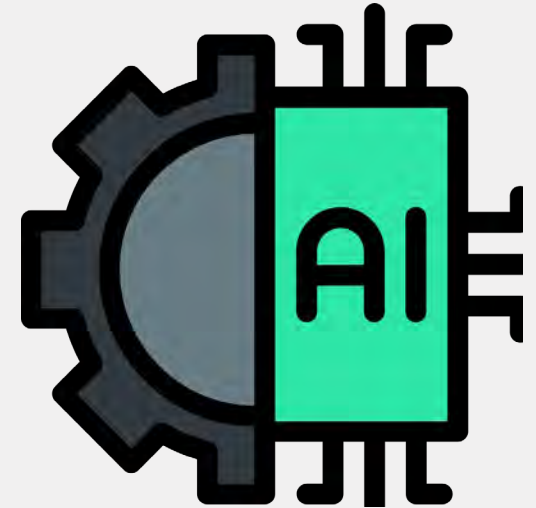


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# AI as AT

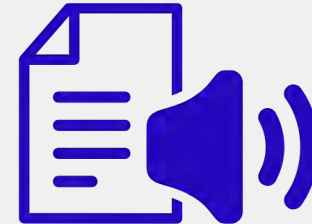
- AI can't be ignored or turned off
- Emerging AI is evolving to be another type of assistive technology
- How can we leverage potential benefits and minimize harm?
- We need to “future proof” our students and help set up adults for success.



# AI- Profound Impact on Education, Employment and Life

It's already in many of the tech tools we use

- Closed captioning
- Translation tools
- Summarization Tools
- Website searches
- Word prediction
- Speech recognition
- Adaptive learning platforms



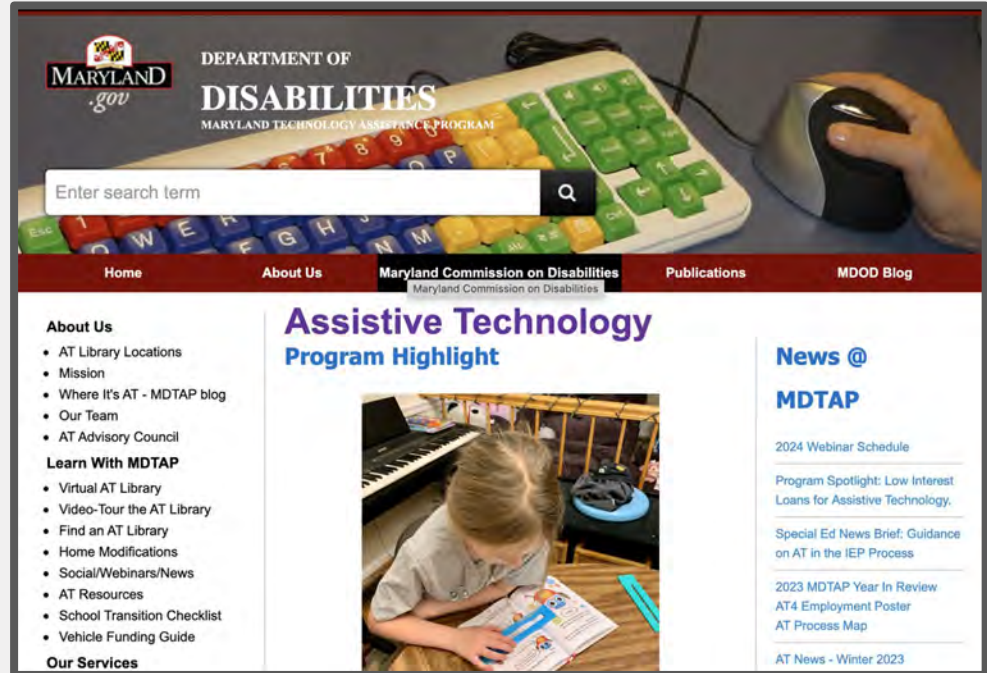
# Accessible Materials, Platforms and Websites

- [Bookshare.org](https://www.bookshare.org)
- [Learning Ally](https://www.learningally.com)
- [Libby](https://libby.com)
- [Hoopla](https://www.hoopla.com)
- Accessible PDFs
- Accessible Websites
- [CAST.org](https://www.cast.org)- Learn about Universal Design for Learning
- [ATIA](https://www.atia.org)- Assistive Technology Industry Association
- [AT3Center](https://www.at3center.org)



# State AT Act Programs

- Maryland Technology Assistive Program
- [MD- TAP](#)
- Device Loans
- Device Demos
- Device Reutilization
- Financial Loans
- Other State Financing



# Let's stay in touch!

Joan Lipman Green

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Instagram- [joanlipmangreen](#)

[Free 15 min phone consultations](#)

HAPPY TO HELP

