Text-to-Speech (TTS) Quick Guide

(English & Spanish)

Text-to-Speech (TTS) Tool

Text-to-Speech allows students to hear their text read aloud via an embedded text-to-speech technology. The student is able to control the speed, pause the voice, and raise or lower the volume of the voice via a volume control. Students who are struggling readers may need assistance accessing the assessment by having all or portions of the assessment read aloud. This support also may be needed by students with reading-related disabilities, or by students who are blind and are advancing toward English braille proficiency. Students will need headphones unless they are testing individually in a separate setting.

Table 1. Text-to-Speech Availability

Type of Text-to-Speech	Embedded Designated Support	Embedded Accommodation
English Text-to-Speech	ISAT and IDAA ELA/Literacy, Mathematics, and Science (not reading passages) ISAT ELA/Literacy, Mathematics, and Science Training Tests IDAA ELA/Literacy, Mathematics, and Science Training Tests	ISAT and IDAA ELA/Literacy (including reading passages)
Spanish Text-to-Speech	ISAT and IDAA Mathematics and Science ISAT Mathematics and Science Training Tests IDAA Mathematics and Science Training Tests	NA

How to Use Text-to-Speech (English)

For TA, TE, SC, DA, or DC Users

Users must enable Text-to-Speech for students in TIDE prior to testing.

1. Navigate to the Idaho Portal
2. Select any assessment card.
3. Select **TIDE** (Figure 1). The *Login* page appears (see Figure 2).

Figure 1. TIDE Card

Figure 2. Login Page

4. From the TIDE dashboard, under "Preparing for Testing", select "View Test Settings and Tools" (Figure 3).

Figure 3. TIDE Dashboard

5. Find the student that needs Text-to-Speech enabled.

6. Under "Supporting Students with Literacy Challenges", choose whether the feature will serve as a designated support or accommodation. Both are available for Math (CAT & PT) and Science, while the ELA-CAT and ELA-PT must be accommodations (Figure 4).
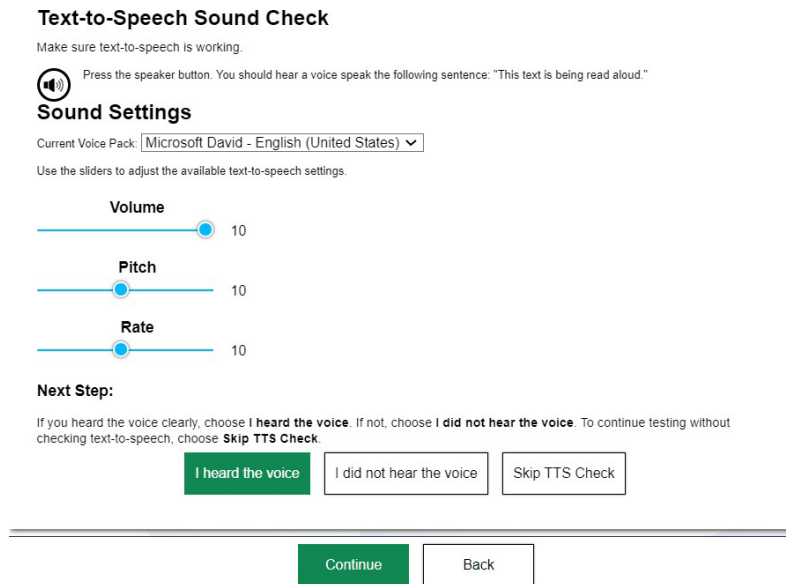
Figure 4. Supporting Students with Literacy Challenges

7. After choosing which subjects to activate Text-to-Speech for, scroll down and select "Save".

In Student Test Delivery System (TDS) Interface

8. When a student selects an assessment to take in student testing interface, then will be brought to the **Text-to-Speech Sound Check** (Figure 5).
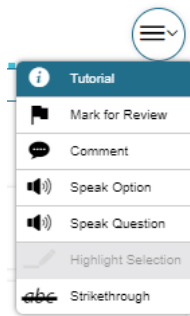
Figure 5. Text-to-Speech Sound Check

Text-to-Speech Sound Check

Make sure text-to-speech is working.

Press the speaker button. You should hear a voice speak the following sentence: "This text is being read aloud."

Sound Settings

Current Voice Pack: Microsoft David - English (United States)

Use the sliders to adjust the available text-to-speech settings.

Volume   10

Pitch   10

Rate   10

Next Step:

If you heard the voice clearly, choose **I heard the voice**. If not, choose **I did not hear the voice**. To continue testing without checking text-to-speech, choose **Skip TTS Check**.

I heard the voice | I did not hear the voice | Skip TTS Check

Continue | Back

9. After hearing the read aloud, select "I heard the voice", then "Continue".

10. Once beginning their assessment, the student can activate Text-to-Speech by clicking either "Speak Option" or "Speak Question" from the drops-down menu (Figure 6).
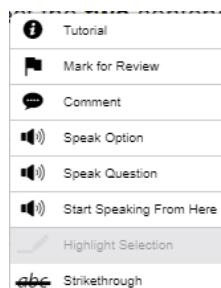
Figure 6. Drop-down Menu

- **Note:** The Text-to-Speech can be Paused and Resumed while it is reading the passage or question aloud.

11. Students can also right-click a section of a test question or answer and select "Start Speaking from Here" to read aloud a specific section of the text (Figure 7).
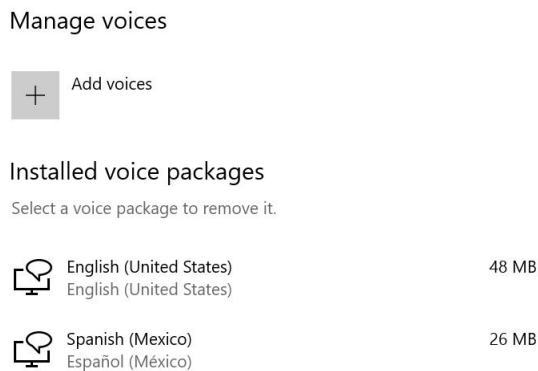
Figure 7. Start Speaking from Here

How to Use Text-to-Speech (Spanish)

Prior to configuring a student's settings in TIDE, Technology Coordinators must add the Spanish (Mexico) voice package to their student's computer.
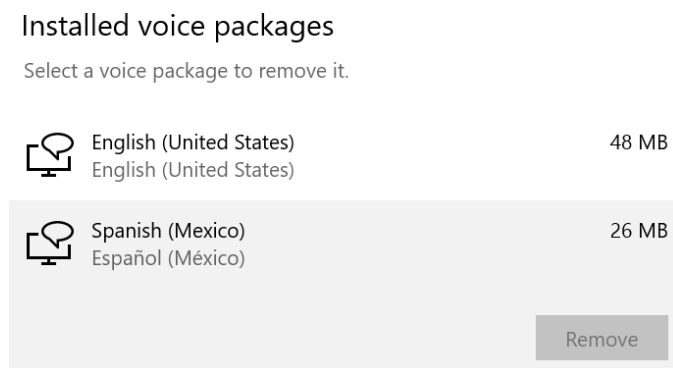
Windows

1. Open **Settings**. Go to **Time and Language**, then **Speech,** then scroll down to "Manage Voices".

2. Under "Manage Voices" select **Add Voices** (Figure 8).

Figure 8. Add Voices

Manage voices

+ Add voices

Installed voice packages
Select a voice package to remove it.

English (United States)   48 MB
English (United States)

Spanish (Mexico)   26 MB
Español (México)

3. The **Voice packages** window appears. Search for and click "Spanish (Mexico)", then select "Add" to close the window. The "Spanish (Mexico)" voice package should now appear under "Installed voice packages" (Figure 9).

Figure 9. Installed Voice Packages

Installed voice packages
Select a voice package to remove it.

English (United States)   48 MB
English (United States)

Spanish (Mexico)   26 MB
Español (México)

                                        Remove

4. Open **Settings**. Go to **Time and Language**, then **Language**, then scroll down to "Preferred languages".

5. Under "Preferred Languages" select **Add a language** (Figure 10)

Figure 10. Add a Language

Preferred languages

Apps and websites will appear in the first language in the list that they support.

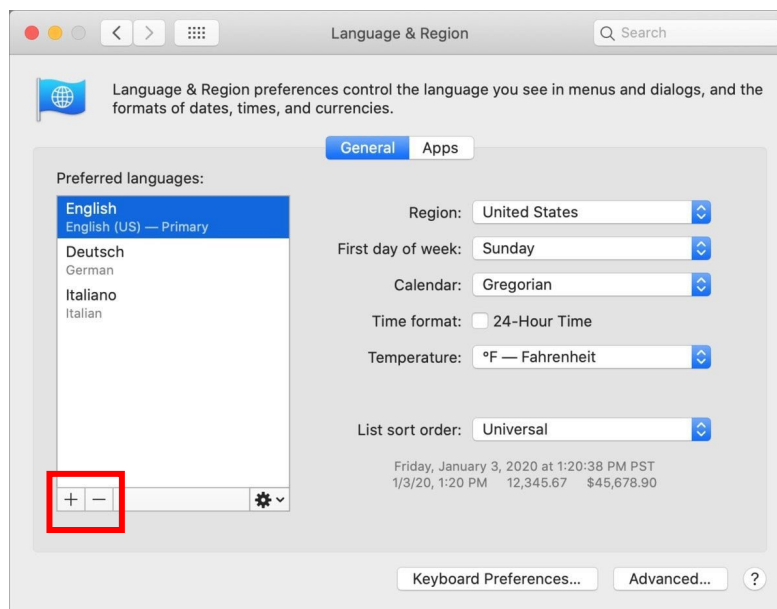+ Add a language

A字 English (United States)

A字 Spanish (Mexico)

6. The ***Add a language*** window appears. Search for then click "Spanish (Mexico)", then select "Add" to close the window. The "Spanish (Mexico)" language should appear under "Preferred Languages" ([Figure 10](#)).

7. Follows steps 1-11 from the **How to Use Text-to-Speech (English)** section of the Quick Guide to use Spanish Text-to-Speech on a Windows device.

macOS

1. Open ***System Preferences***. Go to ***Language & Region***, then select + under "Preferred languages" ([Figure 11](#)).

Figure 11. Language & Region Window

2. After selecting +, search for and select "Español (US)". "Español (US)" should now appear under the "Preferred languages" section.

3. Follows steps 1-11 from the **How to Use Text-to-Speech (English)** section of the Quick Guide to use Spanish Text-to-Speech on a macOS device.