



Student Accessibility Services

Adaptive Technology Tips and Tools





Introduction

Adaptive technologies are to specialized versions of existing tools or technologies designed to enhance accessibility for individuals with disabilities or impairments.

These adaptations, such as screen magnification, voice-to-text, and alternative keyboards, help users perform tasks more effectively.

**“Technology is best when it
brings people together.”**

— Matt Mullenweg



The Built in Tools



[Windows Accessibility Tools](#)

[Apple Accessibility Tools](#)



Check the Accessibility settings on your device for features like:

- Narration
- Filter, adjust contrast and brightness
- Live Captions
- Voice Control
- Focus Time

[Microsoft Accessibility Video](#)

Speech-to-Text

- Turns spoken words into typed text.
- Provides real-time captions when someone is speaking.
- Helps save time notetaking and allow you to focus on the content.
- Recognizes and translates languages.

[Word Dictate](#)



Literacy Support Tools

There are many Adaptive Technology (AT) tools that can support reading some of these include:

- Text-to-Speech
- Textbooks in digital format
- Optical Character Recognition (OCR)
- Screen Magnification
- Screen masking
- Dictionaries and Thesauri

Read&Write

Read&Write is a literacy support tool that offers help with everyday tasks like reading text out loud, understanding unfamiliar words, researching assignments, and proofing written work.

[Read&Write Video Introduction](#)

[Read&Write Download Information](#)

Key Features:

- Text-to-speech: Reads out loud text from documents, webpages, and PDFs.
- Word prediction: Suggests words as you type to improve writing efficiency and accuracy.
- Speech-to-text: Talk&Type allows you to speak to type text.



OrbitNote

OrbitNote helps make inaccessible PDF content more accessible for all learners by transforming inaccessible PDF documents into dynamic and collaborative workspaces that work for every workstyle

[OrbitNote Website](#)

Key Features:

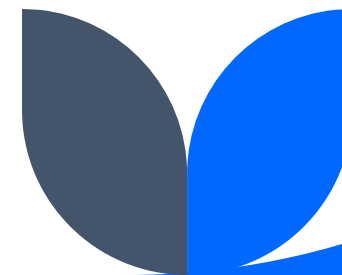
- All the features in the Read&Write toolbar work with OrbitNote.
- OrbitNote allows Read&Write to work on PDFs within a browser.



Notetaking Software

Notetaking Software applications are digital tools you can use to take notes and store them across multiple devices.

- Digital binder, with dividers, sections and pages
- Tools like highlighters, and to-do or important tags
- Ability to search your notes
- Capture voice notes and screenshots



Microsoft OneNote

Key Features:

- Note-taking with text, audio, and video recordings.
- Organizing notes with notebooks, sections, and pages.
- Accessibility features like Immersive Reader, which helps with reading and comprehension.

There is no cost to use Microsoft OneNote as a Nipissing University student.

Practical Tips:

- Using tags to group important information.
- Syncing notes across devices for easy access.
- Collaboration tools for group projects.





What is Mind Mapping?

Mind mapping is a visual technique for organizing information, showing relationships among pieces of the whole, and helping with brainstorming and planning. It's especially useful for students who prefer visual learning.

Mind Mapping Tools

Use Cases:

Project Planning: Organize project tasks, milestones, and timelines.

Note-Taking: Capture lecture notes and organize them by topics.

Brainstorming Sessions: Collect and structure ideas during team meetings.

Study Guides: Create visual study guides for exams and assignments.

Decision Making: Map out options and their potential outcomes for better decision-making.

<https://coggle.it/>

[MindMeister.com](https://www.mindmeister.com)

Free plan option available for both websites.

Paid premium features.





Selecting the best tools for you



Final tips & takeaways

- Consistent use and practice
 - Strengthens your familiarity
- Refine the tools as you need
 - Decide what is useful for you
- Timing and transitions
 - Don't introduce too many new tools at once
- Patience and support
 - Ask for help if you need support



Thank you

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