How to Activate Text-to-Speech for Kindle on a Droid

by Ryan Goodrich, Demand Media

Smartphones can store e-books, and certain apps will read the text out aloud.

If you own a smartphone and love reading books, then you'll want the Kindle app, which solves the issue of carrying paper books and gives you instant access to where you last left off while reading. Thanks to the innovative nature of technology, text-to-speech capabilities exist that allow you to listen to your e-books even while driving or on the go.

Enabling Text-to-Speech

Open Google Play or visit the Amazon App Market and search for text-to-speech apps. If you already have the Kindle app installed, it still needs the added functionality of a third-party app. Common options include Google Text-to-Speech, Classic Text-to-Speech Engine and IVONA Text-to-Speech HQ (links in Resources). Examples here use Google Text-to-Speech.

Download and install the app.

Navigate to "Settings," "Language & Input" and then "Text-to-speech output."

Select "Google Text-to-Speech Engine" as your "Default engine."

Select a Language from the options offered.

Now that the TTS functionality is installed, open the e-book you want read to you.

Press the "Menu" button.

Select "Start Text-to-Speech" from the Menu option. The voice will begin to read the book's text out aloud.

Enable text to speech for iBooks on iPhone, iPad or iPod Touch

How to turn on text to speech on your iOS device   By Jim Lynch ITworld

Here's how you can use the built-in text to speech feature on the iPad, iPhone or iPod Touch.

1. Open the Settings app.

2. Tap the General icon.

3. Scroll down and tap Accessibility.

4. Tap the Speak Selection option.

5. Toggle the Speak Selection option to On.

6. You can adjust the speaking rate by using the Speaking Rate slider under the Speak Selection toggle switch.

7. To hear text read to you, highlight the text and tap the Speak option that appears in the menu.

Kindle Now Has Text to Speech on iPad iPod iPhone

By Stuart Aitken

May Day brought a nice surprise for Kindle readers who use the app on their iOS. Now Kindle books can be read using text-to-speech on an iPad, iPhone or iPod. Before this update it's always been a bit frustrating for readers of Kindle books to find that there was no way to listen to their collection on an iPad. Blind and visually impaired people who already had purchased Kindle books found that if they downloaded their Kindle books to an iPad it wasn't possible to use the built-in features offered by VoiceOver. It wasn't even possible to use the Speak Selection feature to select a word or chunk of text to have it read out. Now it is possible to use VoiceOver (not Speak Selection though).

Kindle Reader uses **VoiceOver** so if you want to use Kindle's text-to-speech functions **VoiceOver** needs to be installed and running. To do this go to: **Settings > General > Accessibility > VoiceOver > On.**

VoiceOver is designed to allow blind and visually impaired people to access iOS So when it is running you activate apps in a slightly different way than the standard iOS approach. Mostly this involves a double tap instead of single tap (which makes sense, after all a blind or visually impaired person will want to check the

right app is selected (single tap), before activating that app (double tap). Thereafter, use of text-to-speech is pretty straightforward and quite powerful.

- In Kindle Library with VoiceOver on, tap once on a book to have full spoken information about each title, author and whether the book is installed. Double tap to open the book and start reading from where you left off.
- Use a two finger swipe down to start continuous reading from top of page.
- Use a single two finger tap while reading to pause. Two finger tap once again to resume.
- Single finger tap selects a line of text and reads under the finger. (Like Speak Selection only it gives context too.) Single finger tap anywhere to read that line. Two finger tap to return to library.
- Suppose you are in single line reading at a time (e.g. for meaning), and you want to return to continuous reading. Simply do a two finger swipe down to resume continuous reading.
- Three finger swipe right to left to move to next page, or left to right to go to previous page.

All of these options are clearly spoken out.

What does it allow you to read?

Kindle titles will work. However, Word documents, PDF documents will not offer text-to-speech (many other apps do offer this functionality).

The big advantage is in being able to read your Kindle formatted books using text-to-speech.

Can you use other voices?

While it is not at all obvious how to do it is still possible to change the voice used in text-to-speech with the Kindle. The secret is to think about how you would give access to this facility to a blind or visually impaired person. You would do it from within VoiceOver. Here's how to do it using the Language Rotor.

Setup is a two stage process. First, you set up the languages you want to make available from within VoiceOver. Second with Voiceover activated, select the languages from the rotor you previously set up.

Turn on voices to be selected from in Language Rotor.

General > Settings > Accessibility > Language Rotor (below Rotor)

Tap to select each of the languages you want to use as options e.g. US English, British English, Irish English.

Tap **VoiceOver** (at top of screen) to come out of Language Rotor.

Now you will want to select the chosen language or dialect. You do this with VoiceOver On.

- Turn on **VoiceOver** as before **General > Settings > Accessibility > VoiceOver > On**
- Launch Kindle with VoiceOver On.
- Tap and rotate two fingers on the screen clockwise to turn on Rotor and the command available is spoken. (e.g. Characters, Words, Line etc.)
- Repeat the movement until it says **Language** you're ready now.
- Do a one finger slide down, it will speak out the first voice you selected as an option. Repeat the rotor action until you reach the dialect or voice that you want. That is now selected.
- Now a two-finger swipe down will speak out in your preferred voice.

Now Apple if we could only have the Scottish Voices available from within the Languages available not just in the apps but across the whole system. That would be great!

All internet browsers have Text To Speech apps and extensions. A simple search of "Chrome (Firefox, Safari, Edge, Explorer) text to speech" will pull up directions. I recommend NOT letting students do this to school computers, but teach them that it can be done to their personal computers/laptops at home.