

Dragon – Providing the IT User with a Voice



Dragon is a very powerful app that will take what you say and quickly and accurately convert it into text!

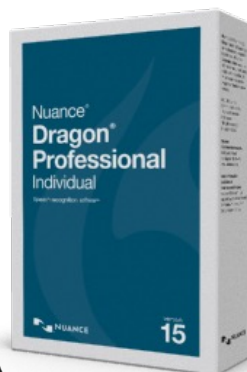
This will make it so much easier to write for many people who might find this difficult because they are dyslexic, or perhaps have painful conditions such as arthritis or RSI and so find it painful to use the computer mouse or keyboard.

Imagine being able to dictate your text instead of typing it! This can easily be done at speeds of 120 words a minute or more, up to three times faster than the average typing speed in the UK!

What's in the Dragon Box?

Just the software, although you can also download this if preferred.

You may also need a microphone, which could be USB, Bluetooth, a desktop mic, or the built in mic on a laptop...



Can Dragon really help if you are dyslexic?

We are often asked what happens when Dragon makes a spelling mistake, but this will never happen because every word in Dragon's extensive vocabulary is spelt correctly!

People also say that they may struggle to write when presented with a blank Microsoft Word document but that they could talk about what they want to write...

This therefore means that you can talk instead of typing and ask Dragon to 'write' for you - greatly improving the quality and speed of your writing!

Is Dragon any Good?



Dragon – Key Points

1. Add text quickly and accurately by speaking
2. Write three times faster than typing
3. Improve the quality of your writing
4. Add bespoke words to the vocabulary
5. Dictate and read emails with voice commands with Outlook and Gmail
6. Control your computer with voice commands, reducing the use of the mouse and keyboard
7. Search the Internet by voice, rather like Siri, Alexa or Cortana
8. Create custom commands to reduce repetitive work

Dragon is a very clever app that 'learns' how you write! If we look back a few years, a Dragon user would need to enroll after installing the software. This involved reading a set piece of text that helped Dragon to understand how a user spoke – **this is more difficult if you struggle to read!**

There was a choice of texts to read from, one of which was taken from Alice in Wonderland... early Dragon users and trainers could probably recite this word for word!

Dragon today is so much better. The text you read is just to configure the microphone and ensure that the sound quality is good. This usually only takes 20 to 30 seconds.

Once this is done you can start dictating, but there are some key things to be aware of that will make this amazing software even better, **allowing you to write at speeds of 120 words a minute, or more!**

Although Dragon has an extensive vocabulary, it cannot know every word or name and one important tip is to introduce these words, so for instance, if you are a biochemist and often write about 'enterobacteriaceae', you can easily get Dragon to write this every time you say it. **This is also so much quicker than typing it!**

Dragon can help you if you have...

1. Dyslexia
2. RSI
3. Carpal tunnel syndrome
4. Parkinson's
5. Multiple Sclerosis
6. Arthritis
7. or simply need to write faster!



Dragon and Disability...

Dragon and dyslexia

Many people we train will tell us that sitting at a computer screen with a blank document and a keyboard is difficult. If this sounds familiar, then Dragon could be the answer!

Not only does it save time, but Dragon also significantly reduces the errors that you might make when typing because it cannot make a spelling mistake! However, although very accurate, proof reading is still important.

Professional people also tell us that when typing, that they may use simpler words because they are easier to spell – this can make their work look less professional. **Dragon will help with these problems!**

Dragon will also help people with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, ME and Parkinson's, which might mean that typing is not only painful, but slow.

Dragon and arthritis, RSI, Carpal Tunnel Syndrome

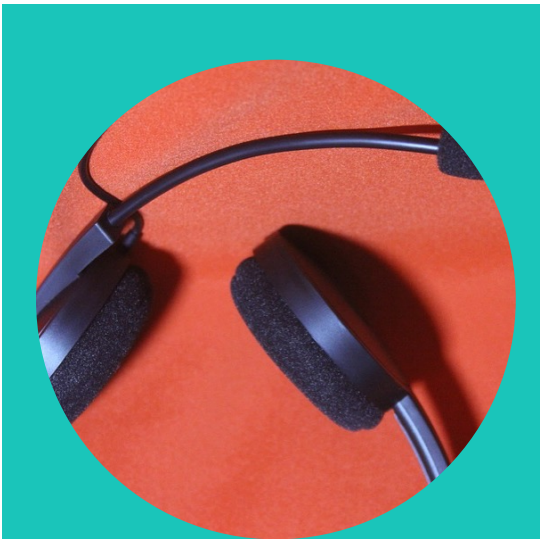
These conditions can be extremely painful and often develop over a long period of time when people use a mouse or keyboard at work, especially if the main task is repetitive. This often means that work takes longer because regular breaks are needed, and we often see people working longer to keep up.

An ergonomic assessment can help by suggesting an alternative mouse or keyboard, and these are important because the body is not naturally designed to use these, and it is often in the small muscles around the fingers that this type of problem can begin.

Using Dragon will help to reduce or eliminate the use of the mouse and keyboard, and with the ability to create custom commands, it is possible to automate repetitive actions. So, yes, Dragon provides an alternative way of working that will allow people to carry on using their computer without exacerbating their painful symptoms. Not only that, but it is also faster than using the keyboard!



Transcription – a Lesser Known Dragon Feature...



One of our favourite sentences as dictated on one of our courses!

“The results depend on considering the reversible conversion between the D cord chloroplasts decarbamylated and carbamylated states.”

No, we don't know what it means either, but it was so easy to set up so that Dragon wrote it as quickly as we spoke it!



Dictating remotely!

If you are working away from your computer and need to take some notes or write more extensively, you could use a digital recorder such as the Olympus DM-770 (shown above), or even your phone to dictate your text exactly as if you were using Dragon.

When you return to your computer you can then copy that recording across and use the transcription feature on the DragonBar to transcribe this recording to text.

You will be less likely to want to dictate punctuation such as 'comma' or 'full stop' when doing this, so you could also use a feature where Dragon does this for you. **This can also be very helpful if you struggle to get punctuation correct in your text!**

Another great feature here is to ask Dragon to transcribe someone else's voice! This could be useful for podcasts or lectures if it is a single voice, but you do have to be careful with the recording quality.

Sadly Dragon cannot accurately transcribe conversations yet, but this is probably on the way!

Is Dragon Difficult to Learn?

Would I need training?

The simple answer is yes, we would always recommend this because we have seen people make the same basic mistakes over and over again and this means that they don't get the main benefits from using Dragon.

What training is available?

Training can be provided in several ways...

1. Face to Face
2. Using Zoom or Microsoft Teams
4. A new online platform 'Dragon eLearning Solution' - this is approved by Student Finance England and is also CPD certified!

Custom Dragon Commands...

This is a part of Dragon that we particularly like! The ability to create your own voice commands. Examples include...

If you find it difficult (or painful) to highlight your text in a green colour - create a command to do this for you!

If you find it difficult to navigate to a web page, then enter the username and password - create a command to do this for you!

If you open the same document everyday, create a command to do this for you!

Adapt-IT can help you with this if required with a custom command creation service...



Adapt-IT
Training

Adapt-IT Training

Adapt-IT provides training in all of the main assistive software products.

Training is beneficial to get the maximum out of your software and allowing you to effectively use it from the get go rather than struggling to navigate your way around it for several hours.

Our head trainer, Neil, has over 28 years experience in assistive software training and is a certified Dragon trainer.



Watch out on our social media for the word of the week as dictated by Dragon!
Here is one to get you started ... Floccinaucinihilipilification !!