Text-to-speech Technology

According to VocaliD:

"Over ten million people live with voicelessness. Much like Stephen Hawking, they rely on text-to-speech devices to express themselves. **Yet, young or old, male or female, shy or outgoing — they all speak with similar voices."**

"Digital voices must evolve."

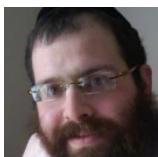***"VocaliD is the voice company that is bringing speaking machines to life.*** *We leverage our voicebank and proprietary voice blending technology* ***to create unique vocal persona for any device*** *that turns text into speech."*

"Say goodbye to uniform voices. (Re-)discover your voice."

Even if you're unable to bank your voice, **we can reverse engineer it with just three seconds of sound.** Our algorithms use that sample to find a matched speaker within the Voicebank and **blend your vocal DNA with their recordings.**

The result is a personalized digital voice
that preserves the match's clarity, and
conveys your unique vocal identity.

VocaliD is not yet covered by insurance. Below are some great apps for individuals with speech disabilities.

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Per Tzvi's post (below) written on 01/26/17:

"Text-to-speech" is a technology that allows an individual to type out a message and have it spoken by a device, and/or have spoken messages translated into text messages. The following apps allow text to speech functions to go right on a smartphone or tablet, helping those with difficulty hearing or speaking to communicate easily without expensive specialized equipment."

Predictable
Website: https://therapy-box.co.uk/assistive-technology/apps/pa-english
Manufacturer's description: "Multi-award winning app for people with speech disabilities who need a sleek, simple and smart way to communicate! Predictable speaks out the messages you type using your favourite from a selection of keyboard layouts (including 10

key keyboard, Apple's own iOS keyboard, or any keyboard extension from the app store also works). Intelligent word prediction, which learns an individual's pattern of use, makes communication even faster. Use Nuance voices, record your own voice saying familiar phrases or use your voice banked ModelTalker voice. Save phrases in the phrase bank for quick access; add items to Favourites and set up the features for a more personalised experience. Switch accessible; people with significant physical disabilities can still work the app using one or two switches. Now in its 5th major iteration, with all new features and appearance."
Download: App Store | Google Play **Cost:** $159.99 | $158.44

RogerVoice

Website: https://rogervoice.com/en/
Manufacturer's description: "RogerVoice provides a means for the deaf and hard-of-hearing to carry out phone conversations. … Automated Real-Time Captioning (or subtitling) allows you to read a written transcript of your correspondent's spoken words, using voice-recognition technology. Your correspondent's words are instantly displayed as text messages on your screen. Transcription is secure and provided in multiple languages. Automated Voice Synthesis allows you to write your message to your correspondent, who will receive a voiced response. … RogerVoice is suited for deaf and hard-of-hearing persons, persons with hearing loss, as well as persons with difficulty speaking, with aphasia, paralysis, or severe stuttering. RogerVoice may also be used by any person wishing to have a live transcription of a phone call for personal use." **Download:** App Store | Google Play **Cost:** App is free, but you pay for call time

Talk for Me

Website: http://www.mobiletouchtech.com/talk-for-me/
Manufacturer's description: "Not being able to speak on your own is difficult. Talk For Me – Text to Speech, designed and engineered by a person unable to speak, seeks to make your life easier. Type any text in the main text area or tap one of the six main custom buttons and your iOS device will talk for you. Want to set up more custom phrases? Swipe up and up again for more pages with custom editable buttons. Need even more? Save phrases in an archive database. This is great for saving partial sentences. A quick swipe left, select a sentence from your archive, and it will appear in the main window ready for you to complete. Once you set up with frequent custom phrases, this app will allow you to communicate with ease. No active internet connection needed. Large buttons for easy use." **Download:** App Store **Cost:** Free

Touch Voice

Website: https://touch-voice.com/marketing/
Manufacturer's description: "Touch Voice Gold provides outstanding Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) features for the speech impaired. The Touch Voice Gold app gives people who are unable to speak a voice. By touching buttons on the screen the app speaks for you with a customizable human sounding computerized voice. By speaking for them, Touch Voice Gold allows them to communicate with family, friends, doctors, nurses and care givers. Users of Touch Voice Gold can now speak their needs and feelings, reducing stress levels, which can possibly lead to better communications and facilitate care and recovery. Designed for communication in a hospital setting, convalescent facility, home care or in just any common communication scenario or situation. The app transforms the iPad into an Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) device for those who are

unable to produce understandable natural speech on their own. The user interface is optimized for use by those who have mobility and dexterity challenges specifically affecting their ability of targeting and touching communication buttons with their fingers." **Download:** App Store | Google Play **Cost:** $26.99 | $21.99

Voice Dream Reader
Website: http://www.voicedream.com/reader/

Manufacturer's description: "We are passionate about making a difference in people's lives, whether for a professional or student who wants to be more productive, or someone with learning differences who comprehends better listening than reading visually. … Voice Dream Reader … reads articles, documents and books out loud. With advanced text-to-speech and a highly configurable visual layout, it can be tailored to suit every reading style and level. Supported documents: PDF, Plain text, MS Word, MS PowerPoint, RTF, and Google Docs; Web articles; DRM-free EPUB eBooks; Bookshare Books; DAISY text-based books and audiobook; Audiobooks in MP3, MP4 or zipped MP3 format; Experimental rich text and image support for all documents. … Spoken word is highlighted to improve comprehension and retention. … High contrast and large font size for low vision readers. Optimized for VoiceOver, Braille and switch control." **Download:** App Store | Google Play **Cost:** $14.99 | $9.99