Free software to help students who find reading difficult, time consuming or tiring.

Natural Reader is a very useful bit of free software for anyone who finds reading difficult. It allows you to listen to any text on your computer screen by converting written text such as **MS Word documents, Web pages, PDF, eBook, ePub files** and **E-mails** into spoken words with Microsoft voices. You get to choose the accent (US or UK) and the speed of reading that you wish to use. This allows you to sit back and listen rather than having to read the text yourself – once downloaded, you just click on the Natural Reader icon in your computer, add the text you want it to read, open it, click on the 'play' symbol (▶) then sit back and listen!

Natural Reader can make text more accessible by allowing the user to concentrate on the text content or meaning rather than 'decoding' individual words. It is very useful for any student who finds reading tiring, time consuming or difficult. Although you could turn on the 'narrator' in your computer settings so that text on the screen can be read aloud, the narrator can't read text in pictures, screen shots or scanned documents. Natural Reader can read the text in these provided they are saved as a picture. Since teachers may attach such resources to support school work set, Natural Reader is a more versatile tool to use.

How to get Natural Reader - Publisher: 'NaturalSoft'

Licence model: Freeware

There is **a free version** of Natural Reader and this is the one you should get. To download it simply google **'free Natural Reader software'** and follow the instructions on one of the sites found.

Note: There is also a 'paid for' version of the software – make sure you download the free version.