



ENHANCING ADULT EDUCATION WITH TEXT TO SPEECH

Founded in 1962, Kentucky Educational Television (KET) is Kentucky's preeminent public media organization. KET strives to produce innovative and relevant programs and services that exemplify its values, including the lifelong pursuit of knowledge and equal access to all needed resources.

The first GED (General Education Diploma) series was distributed nationally in 1975. A decade later, KET launched the its first study-at-home GED project. KET's Fast Forward learning system was launched in 2014, and designed to help adult learners prepare for high-school equivalency tests, college, and careers.

ReadSpeaker initially reached out to KET in 2013 regarding the possibility of adding text to speech to KET's online learning platform. In 2014, KET indicated that they were ready to consider adding ReadSpeaker's text-to-speech technology to the new GED® prep courses, a part of the Fast Forward Learning System.

KET was mainly interested in adding text to speech to the GED-platform as a way to reach out to more adult learners. Adult learners who are returning to school to obtain certifications often face many more obstacles than traditional students, including a lack of time and lower reading skills.

Recognizing the many benefits of adding ReadSpeaker to their online learning platform, KET decided to test out the technology on their development server. With the help of ReadSpeaker's technical team,

To correct sentence fragments, first identify the missing elements and then add the words and punctuation that will make the fragment a complete sentence.

1. A sentence fragment may be missing a **subject**.
 Fragment: Was never late returning from a break.
 Sentence: **I** was never late returning from a break.
 The fragment doesn't tell you *who* was never late. Add a subject to correct the fragment.
2. A sentence fragment may be missing a **predicate**, or have an incomplete predicate.
 Fragment: The new rule about breaks.
 Sentence: The new rule about breaks **is unnecessary**.
 The fragment doesn't have a verb and makes you ask, "What about the rule?" Add a predicate to correct the fragment.
3. A sentence fragment may have a subject and predicate but still may not be a **complete thought**.
 Fragment: Because we are all responsible workers. The rule should be eliminated.
 Sentence: Because we are all responsible workers, **the rule should be eliminated**.
 The fragment has a subject (*we*) and a predicate (*are all responsible workers*), but it is not a complete thought. The word *because* makes you wonder, "What happens because we are responsible workers?" To correct the fragment, complete the thought, or join the fragment to a nearby sentence by changing the punctuation.

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KET was able to get ReadSpeaker up and running within the Moodle learning environment very quickly. Set-up was made even easier by ReadSpeaker's Moodle plugin, which allows for both reading of HTML content and reading of documents.

KET has been extremely satisfied with ReadSpeaker's technology, and has received many compliments from students. On average, the ReadSpeaker player is activated about 12,000 times per month, a huge success!

Challenge	Result
<p>Engage adult learners returning to complete schooling certification, who are often struggling readers.</p> <p>Implement ReadSpeaker's text-to-speech technology on all adult learning courses in the Moodle environment.</p> <p>Audio with synchronized highlighting for text and mathematical reading.</p>	<p>Average 12,000 'listens' per month.</p> <p>Satisfied students who find it easier to work through course material.</p>

“After two months of having ReadSpeaker available, we've already gotten a call from a student who said being able to play the audio was helping him get through course material faster.”



ReadSpeaker is a global voice specialist providing dozens of languages and lifelike voices. Using its own industry-leading technology, the company delivers some of the most natural-sounding synthesized voices on the market. ReadSpeaker uses next-generation Deep Neural Network (DNN) technology to structurally improve voice quality at all levels. ReadSpeaker is a subsidiary of the Memory Disk Division (MD) of the HOYA Corporation, with offices in 15 countries, and over 10,000 customers in 65 countries, providing a complete text-to-speech (TTS) offering, both as Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) and as licensed solutions. A fully integrated TTS provider, ReadSpeaker encompasses all of HOYA's state-of-the-art technologies (NeoSpeech, Voiceware, VoiceText and rSpeak), providing a wide variety of applications for varying channels and devices in multiple industries. ReadSpeaker gives a voice to businesses and organizations for online, embedded, server or desktop needs, apps, speech production, custom voices and more. With more than 20 years' experience, the ReadSpeaker team of experts is leading the way in text to speech. ReadSpeaker is "Pioneering Voice Technology".

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