

TALK BACK LIMITED EDITION

Talking Technologies International Limited, is the Creator, Distributor, and Technical Support Centre for Talk Back Products. We've released this Limited Edition of the full commercial Talk Back so that you can try out this exciting new technology - free.

We've included this text to introduce you to Talk Back, help you get started, and tell you where to buy Talking Technologies products. Why not print it out now.

We plainly cannot give away the latest Talk Back as a **full** working version. The Talk Back Limited Edition will only read about two lines of text and you will not be able to use most of its features.

The full version will read text of virtually any length and, using the Options, you can change the voicing.

What Is Talk Back

Talk Back gives your computer a voice. It's a bit of talking software. She'll talk to you, and read aloud almost any text from any Windows application - in English. English, not American. Not even Trans-Atlantic.

She's at an intensive language course, studying Dutch, French, German, Italian, and Spanish. So, keep in touch.

Talk Back has a bit of real-time intelligence, and tries to apply the capricious rules of language to any text you can give it. The voice quality is seriously impressive and is a real advance in speech synthesis.

Well, of course, it's only a bit of software. But perhaps we all are.

What You Can Do With It

listen to your emails - whilst you do something better
try out presentations - check them for punctuation, content, and context
listen to your letters - just as others will read them
sit back away from the screen - rest your eyes
listen to that novel you started writing - is it easy to follow
hear those long 'read me' files - as you set up your new application
spell words letter by letter, or hear a word at a time - great for children
help resolve spelling and reading problems - learn by association
help a speech problem - give yourself a 'voice'
work on film scripts - give each player a voice
develop talking applications - work more easily
get started with learning English - the easy way
make announcements from typed text - ideal for public services
just have fun - yes, that's OK too

How To Install Talk Back

Normally, Talk Back comes on a CD. It needs a 486/75, Windows 95, 6MB RAM, and an industry standard sound card. It will not work in DOS or on a MAC.

It should work with almost any Soundblaster 16 compatible sound system. A few sound cards are problematic but a good test is to try some of the Multimedia applications that come with Windows. If you need help, check out the Technical Support section at www.talk-systems.com.

Close any applications. Put the Talk Back CD in the tray, and install it like any other application - Start, Run, then x:setup.exe, where x is your CD drive letter. Accept the default installation suggestions - unless you have a really convincing reason for changing the drive, path, or folder.

Take it out when it's done. **Put it back in its box.**

To use it simultaneously with Kurzweil VoicePad or Kurzweil VoicePlus, or any of the voice recognition products, you must have a full duplex (two-way) sound card.

True full duplex sound cards are rare, and sound-in with simultaneous sound-out rarely works properly. You may have to turn the microphone on and off by keyboard or mouse, not voice, to give Talk Back access to the sound card.

However, anyone who understands MS Word or Visual Basic macros could probably write a short piece of code to get around this.

What Do You Get On Screen

Once it is installed, start the Talk Back Limited Edition like any other application - Start, Programs, then Talk Back Limited Edition.

The Talk Back button bar has small pink buttons that look just like the familiar Play, Stop, and Pause buttons, on your CD player.

Like any other window, you can move the Talk Back button bar somewhere convenient, and leave it there. Whichever application you have on screen, Talk Back will always stay on top, where you can find it.

Remember to close the Talk Back button bar, using the X button, before you shut down Windows 95.

Using Talk Back By Mouse

Remember, the Talk Back Limited Edition will only read about two lines of text and you will not be able to use most of its features.

Whichever application you have on screen, select some of the on-screen text with the mouse, copy it - using Copy from the Edit menu - and click on Play.

Talk Back now talks to you - until you click Stop. Pause lets you modify and test the voicing.

That's all you have to do. There's no manual. And, to keep it simple, it's virtually user independent - so trouble-free.

Using Talk Back From The Keyboard

You can also select text using SHIFT and the arrow keys, or CONTROL+SHIFT and the arrow keys. Other keys - HOME, END, PAGE UP, PAGE DOWN - can be used as well. The best way to learn these combinations is to experiment.

Most applications let you select all the text using CONTROL+A and copy it with CONTROL+C.

CONTROL+SHIFT+1 presses the Play button and then the Stop button, and CONTROL+SHIFT+2 opens the Talk Back Options.

If you want to get smart, these keyboard controls can be generated by a Visual Basic macro or a Kurzweil voice command.

Talk Back has been designed to be mouse or keyboard operated. This means that any voice recognition system can be used to control Talk Back, within the duplex capability of your sound card.

How To Change The Voice Options

Remember, the Talk Back Limited Edition will only read about two lines of text and you will not be able to use most of these options.

Click the Pause button on the Talk Back button bar. From the Talk Back Options dialog you can now choose exactly the type of voicing you want:

Female who do you want - Theresa, Natalie, Melanie, Louise ...

Mode they'll spell for you, say a word at a time, or just chat away - non stop

Language only English today - but they're all on intensive courses

Volume a whisper, a comforting reminder, a conversation, or from next door

Speed slow through to fast - what does 200 words a minute sounds like

Pitch attentive, indifferent, party-time, husky, not happy, or telling it like it is

All the options, and the Test and OK buttons, can be used from the keyboard, as well as by mouse. For example:

ALT+f moves the focus to the list of female names. ALT+DOWN drops the list. The UP and DOWN keys allow you to move up and down the list. And TAB closes the list.

Note that ENTER does not close the dialog. It's ALT+o. This is because many first-time users pressed ENTER to accept a selection from a list, resulting in the dialog being closed prematurely.

Talk Back includes a short piece of internal text, so that you can test your choice. Just click on the Test button. As soon as you like the way it sounds, click OK to close the Options, and Talk Back is ready to talk again.

Notes On The UK English Version

There are no global rules to ensure that Talk Back will always pronounce numbers correctly. Try some of the following examples:

Telephone Numbers

(0171) 602 4107

+44 (0171) 602 4107

+44-171-602 4107

+44.171.602.4107

0171 602 4107

0171 6 0 2 4 1 0 7

Bank Accounts, Policies, and Part Numbers

2244-171-603

12345

1 2 3 4 5

3,678

Dates

25/12/97

01/01/1999

October 29 1944

October 29, 1944

1,944

Times

12:15

12:15:59

4:30 pm

8:15 am

Currency

£39

\$49

59 francs

4000 pesetas

Abbreviations And Acronyms

Talk Back already has an internal table of common abbreviations and acronyms.

However, many people are unclear about which abbreviation need a full stop. The rule is that the full stop represents missing letters.

Doctor is Dr because there are no missing characters after the r.

Established is Est. because there are missing characters after the t.

As far as Talk Back is concerned, it will sort out some of the ambiguities if it can find a hint in the text. For example, Dr. will be said as Drive if it's followed by a capital letter. Similarly, St. will be said as Saint if it's followed by a capital letter. However, this may depend on the talking mode.

Modern business English is gradually dropping all these abbreviation full stops whenever the meaning is clear. Mr. Mrs. Dr. etc are rarely used.

The Talk Back Customizer

The Talk Back Customizer will not work with this Talk Back Limited Edition.

If Talk Back is so clever, why do you need to customize it?

Talk Back is pretty good at dealing with pronunciation, even for difficult words. But there will always be words - places, people, abbreviations, acronyms, retail products, legal words, email prompts, foreign phrases, insect names, scientific symbols, computer codes, school words - even made-up words - that have unusual pronunciations, or you just prefer them to be pronounced slightly differently.

The Talk Back Customizer allows you to modify pronunciations to make the overall speech as fluid and natural as possible. It's easy to learn how to do this, and you don't have to worry about computer programming.

When Talk Back pre-processes text before starting to talk, it checks the Customizer first to modify any specified subsequent pronunciations. This allows Talk Back to master specialist subjects like travel, language learning, weather reports, computer programming, chemistry, fashion, food, biology, football, music history - anything where the normal pronunciation rules are just not enough.

Or maybe you want to colour the whole talking process to give some special effect. You can modify a wide range of speech parameters, using in-text Modifier Codes that give you extensive control over every aspect of Talk Back. You can use alternative phonetics, insert pauses, include telephone dial tones, modify accents, change the sentence cadence, sort out homonyms, change the volume or speed, let it spell - even switch voices.

The degree of modification possible is really impressive. Once you've begun to experiment, you'll find all sorts of uses for Talk Back.

The Talk Back Customizer comes on floppy and costs £17.63, including VAT and delivery. If you're interested, post us a cheque, call us, or look at our [www](#).

Talking To Your Computer With Kurzweil Software

There's a wide range of voice recognition products and add-ons available which, broadly, allow you to just talk to your computer. No typing.

For example, VoicePlus is the large vocabulary multi-application version. It works with almost any Windows program, so you can talk directly into Microsoft Word, Excel, Access, WordPerfect, Netscape, Email ... it's the full business version.

You must have read about Kurzweil VoicePlus in the newspapers or the computer mags. Or seen it on a shop shelf, or in a mail-order catalogue. Or watched a show demonstration.

So, what is it exactly. This is what our brochure says about the full product:

Kurzweil VoicePlus is the business - the real thing. Voice is seriously clever software. You get your Windows application on screen - Word, Excel, WordPerfect, Notes, email - whatever. VoicePlus just waits in the corner of your screen, listens to what you say, then does it. So you can give up typing and chasing the mouse. All you have to do is talk.

It prioritises your 30 000 words from its list of 200 000 words, and then lets you add 10 000 new words. As it listens to what you say, and the way you say it, it gets better and better, making your time with your computer more enjoyable, effective, and productive.

There's not much to learn because you already know how to say 'new paragraph' and 'underline word' and 'delete line' and 'open bracket' and ... Anyway, as you talk, Voice lets the word processor, or whatever you're using, think that you're typing and mousing really well. And with no spelling mistakes.

One of the most popular uses is to talk directly into Microsoft Word. Do all the menus, create lots of text, and arrange it all as you talk, to produce a finished document.

VoicePlus can easily work with other software or equipment to control your home environment, collect data, work a robot, translate to other languages, fill in a spreadsheet, help you with your email - almost anything that has a Windows interface. You can talk directly to specialist applications for medicine, engineering, education, finance, insurance ... anything where using normal everyday English seems like a good idea.

VoicePlus can be used as a stand-alone, off the network, or under a site licence. It doesn't change your computer so, if you ever need to, you can type and mouse as before.

VoicePlus comes with a microphone and a simple manual. It takes about a minute to install from CD and then you start talking. All you need is a 486/75 for Windows 3.11, a Pentium for Windows 95, 16MB RAM, or better, and a Soundblaster 16.

Finding Out More

New products are always being released and prices are bound to change. Please call, or check out our [www](http://www.talk-systems.com).

All our brochures are replicated on our Talking Technologies Web Project - www.talk-systems.com - so you needn't call us if you just want more information.

The Web Project includes a QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS section that deals with many of the things we get asked that need a comprehensive explanation.

There's also a full TECHNICAL SUPPORT section so that you can get 24 hour help.

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Your Talk Back Licence

This Read Me text will ensure that you get the best from the Talk Back Limited Edition. You should read this whole document, so printing it out now makes good sense. There's about 10 pages.

Also, now you've installed the Talk Back Limited Edition on your computer, please read the following brief licence agreement:

Talking Technologies International Limited creates and develops software applications, providing versatile voice environments. Innovative work represents considerable time, effort, and expertise. By accepting this disk you have agreed to respect our copyright.

Like most software, it is offered with a one-user licence. The copyright laws allow you to make one personal backup copy of this disk, but do not allow you to make partial or complete copies for others.

Any violation of our copyright would inevitably have very serious consequences so, if you are in any doubt about your rights and duties, please call us to clarify your legal position.

The licence does allow you to change various text files, once they have been installed on your computer.

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Writing software applications inevitably requires compromise, to successfully unite diverse aspirations and contradictions.

If you have any comments, or suggestions, please call. Your ideas will help create standards, making voice the natural and effective interface for future technologies.

We would be happy to work with you to create new applications, or help you integrate voice into your existing applications.

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