

# Dragon helping dyslexia: a “game-changer” for any Student



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**CHALLENGE:** To speed up the time it takes Tom to write and proof-read his essays and to ensure he keeps up with the demanding nature of his course.

**SOLUTION:** Dragon Professional Individual.

**RESULTS:** Dragon “radically improved” the quality of Tom’s essays since he no longer needs to rely on his peers to check his work. His essays are written much more quickly and that has therefore made his experience at university a lot more enjoyable.

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Tom is a postgraduate student studying Political Theory. He enjoys listening to audio books, travelling and staying on top of current affairs.

It wasn't until Tom was due to start his master's degree that he decided he needed a way to better manage his Dyslexia.

“Dragon dyslexia software was a game changer as I can articulate myself far better through speaking than I can writing or typing. Therefore, I was able to radically improve the quality of my writing because I was thinking far more about what to say but also how to say it.”

— Tom, Master's Degree Student

## Tom's Experience with Dyslexia

According to The British Dyslexia Association, “Dyslexia is a learning difficulty that primarily affects the skills involved in accurate and fluent word reading and spelling.” Furthermore: “Characteristic features of dyslexia are difficulties in phonological awareness, verbal memory and verbal processing speed.”

Of course, Tom isn't the only one, as the NHS predicts that up to 1 in every 10 people in the UK has some degree of dyslexia.

Tom explains how his Dyslexia affects him in his academic life: “I can sometimes find it difficult to read and even more difficult to write coherent sentences. In order to compensate when I'm writing essays, I have to check over it again and again and use friends to proofread my work.”

## New Beginnings, New Obstacles

When Tom returned from travelling Southeast Asia he decided he wanted to go back to university to pursue a Masters degree. However, he was informed that the master's degree would be more intense and difficult than the undergraduate degree he had previously completed. Therefore, Tom began to search for a way that could help him write his essays more clearly and communicate his ideas better than the first-time round.

Before reaching out one of our longest and valuable partner, VoicePower, Tom was manually typing and using free text to speech programs online. These programs read Tom's work back to him electronically and the computer and would help him to spot any mistakes.

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### Unleashing Potential

It was at this point that Tom reached out to our partner VoicePower Ltd, who have been supplying assistive technology and training services for over 20 years making them the perfect fit to find a solution to Tom's struggle. After discussing Tom's requirements and desired objectives, the team recommended that Dragon Dyslexia software would be the best fit for him – More specifically Dragon Professional Individual.

This particular version of speech recognition software is typically recommended for single users, as opposed to larger businesses. However, it is also perfect for accessibility purposes too; From Dyslexia and other learning differences to physical impairment.

The software allows users to dictate freely, create custom commands and templates and read back text aloud – All of which are beneficial to Dyslexic users like Tom.

What Tom is referring to is real-time speech recognition, the words literally appear on your computer screen as you speak them. Needless to say, this is extremely handy for those wishing to boost their productivity, but more so for those with dyslexia as it eliminates the worries surround spelling, grammar and punctuation.

### Unleashing Potential

Tom tells us how Dragon dyslexia software hasn't just helped him whilst studying, but also outside of the classroom. He explains: "Using Dragon has meant that I can respond to emails and even respond to people on social media far more efficiently."

"Instead of having to read over what I had written multiple times and relying on spellcheck I can now simply speak into the microphone look over the writing once and press send."

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