

| TEXT-TO-SPEECH TOOL

What is text-to-speech?

Text-to-speech also known as TTS is a technology that converts text into spoken audio. It can read aloud PDFs, websites, and books using natural artificial intelligence (AI) voices. TTS also referred to as speech synthesis, is a transformative technology that AI uses to convert written text into incredibly lifelike spoken words.

How is this useful for my program?

Researchers sometimes face difficulties delivering surveys to populations with unique communication challenges. While some projects have trained research assistants that can answer questions about survey items, this is not always a possibility. Fortunately, research teams can take advantage of free text-to-speech applications that allow participants to audibly hear survey items read aloud by AI-generated voices.

What are the options?

Several useful text-to-speech options exist, and researchers can choose an application that best fits the needs of their data collection. There are web browser plugins and web-based converters. Some web browser plug-ins like Microsoft Edge features a built-in app to allow users to customize the voice, accent, and speed of the reading. Chrome users can choose between the Chrome extension Read Aloud and the native Chromebook Select-to-Speak feature. Additionally, there are free and low cost web-based text-to-speech converters. All of these offer various languages to offer an more inclusive

