

## Read and Write Gold software

**Texthelp Read and Write Gold (V. 11) is on all Ara desktop computers.**

### What is Read and Write Gold software?

This is a computer toolbar that can assist you with various reading, writing and academic tasks.

### What can Read and Write Gold do?

#### Reading and writing support functions

- **Text-to-speech:** reads aloud text on screen, including text on web pages. Adaptable voice and other functions (green arrow to start, red square to stop).
- **Screenshot reader:** takes a screenshot of (inaccessible) text (e.g. locked PDFs) and reads it aloud.
- **Screen masking:** tints, masks or highlights parts of screen and text to assist readers who have colour preferences or prefer only limited text displayed at one time.
- **Speech maker:** turns a selection of text into a sound file that can be saved and replayed.
- **Dictionary:** provides the meaning of words.
- **Picture dictionary:** provides an image to depict a selected word (online feature).
- **Spell checker:** spell checks using an advanced function which gives word meanings as well as helping to identify the correct spelling option from given choices.
- **Word Wizard:** provides alternative words and associated information for selected word.
- **Homonyms:** highlights words in document which sound similar or are easily confused to assist weak spellers to identify potential errors.
- **Verb checker:** provides a verb table with conjugation options to assist with choosing the correct verb tense usage.
- **Word prediction:** provides word prediction function as words are typed.
- **Speech input:** creates documents from person dictating into microphone attached to computer.
- **Highlight content and list vocabulary:** uses colour to highlight content in a document, then organises the content according to the colour highlights to assist study. Highlight individual words to create a vocabulary list with associated word meanings.

#### Other assistive functions

- **Pronunciation tutor:** provides syllable break-down and audio pronunciation of selected word.
- **Scan and OCR** function converts a document to PDF, Word or HTML format. Enables PDF documents to be converted to editable Word format.
- **Calculator:** on-screen calculator with added display options.
- **Translation:** translates single words from English to Spanish, French, German and Italian, or paragraphs to or from English and a variety of languages. Audio is also available.

## Research functions

- **Fact finder:** launches a web search (via Google or other search platforms).
  - **Fact folder:** stores selected search information with descriptors; also saves original web address. (OneNote also provides this function.)
  - **Fact mapper:** creates a visual representation of information and ideas (online feature).
- Note:** Inspiration is a more accessible and richer mind mapping software than fact mapper (also available on Ara computers).

## Where can you find Read and Write Gold on Ara desktop computers?

1. Select Windows button
2. Type 'read' in search box.
3. Select 'Read&Write11' (pin to taskbar for easy future access).
4. Wait for the toolbar to load.
5. Move the toolbar to top or side of screen where it will lock in place.
6. To close the toolbar: select anchor symbol (right end of bar) to unlock toolbar then click on X to close programme.
7. Most functions have a short explanatory video found on the drop-down menu of that function. You can also find the explanatory videos listed under the drop-down arrow beside the 'Texthelp' button at the right end of the toolbar

## Toolbars

1. Click on Texthelp button (right end of toolbar) to cycle through a range of toolbars with different functions; select the toolbar you require.
2. Or click on Texthelp, then hover over 'Current toolbar' and list of all toolbars will be displayed.
3. You can choose which functions are displayed on each toolbar. For instance;
  - a. Select 'My Features' toolbar.
  - b. Select 'Texthelp' dropdown menu.
  - c. Select 'General Options' and select 'Display' tab.
  - d. Click on desired functions to be displayed on the toolbar.
4. To change the appearance of the toolbar (e.g. size of icons): go to Texthelp button, General Options, Display tab.

## How can I get Read & Write Gold on my own device?

1. Go to the Read & Write Gold website at <https://www.texthelp.com/en-us/products/read-write.aspx>
2. Click on **Try now** to get the **30 day free trial**.
3. Register using your **Ara student email address**.

**Note:** When the trial expires you will need to use your Ara student email address to continue to access this.