



University Information
Technology Services

D2L Brightspace

ReadSpeaker and docReader

University Information Technology Services

Learning Technologies, Training and Audiovisual Outreach

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Introduction

ReadSpeaker provides text-to-speech solutions in D2L Brightspace. It provides faculty and students with alternative methods of consuming text-based content, such as through listening to it directly or downloading it as sound files without the need to download and install additional software. Any user can hear their HTML course content spoken aloud or download it as an MP3 using only their internet browser. Users can also highlight and play back a subset of the content. Users can also view and listen to documents using the ReadSpeaker docReader.

System Requirements

The D2L ReadSpeaker browser requirements match those of the D2L (see below).

- IE9+
- Firefox (latest version)
- Chrome (latest version)
- Safari 5.1 +
- Android Browser (latest version)
- iOS Safari (latest version)
- Microsoft Surface IE 10

How to manually turn on ReadSpeaker

1. Log into D2L and access a course.
2. From the *Course Homepage*, click **Edit Course** on the *Navbar* (see Figure 1).



Figure 1 - Edit Course

3. Scroll down to the *Administration* section, and then select **Tools** (see Figure 2).



Figure 2 - Tools

4. Scroll down the list to locate *ReadSpeaker*.
5. Click the **checkbox** next to ReadSpeaker to enable the tool (see Figure 3).



Figure 3 - ReadSpeaker tools checkbox

How to listen to an HTML File

1. From the course homepage, click **Content** on the *Navbar* (see Figure 4).



Figure 4 - Content

2. Click on an **HTML file** (see Figure 5).



Figure 5 – Select an HTML file

3. Click the **Listen** button. You will be able to hear the text being read on the screen (see Figure 6).

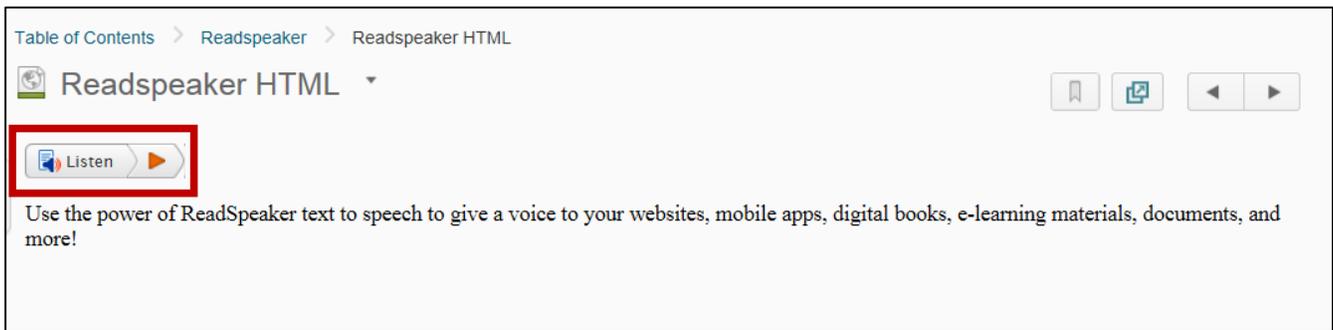


Figure 6 - Listen button

How to listen to a selection of text

1. Highlight the area of text that you would like to listen to (see Figure 7).
2. Using your mouse, right-click on the **text**.
3. Click the **Listen** button that appears next to the highlighted text (see Figure 7).

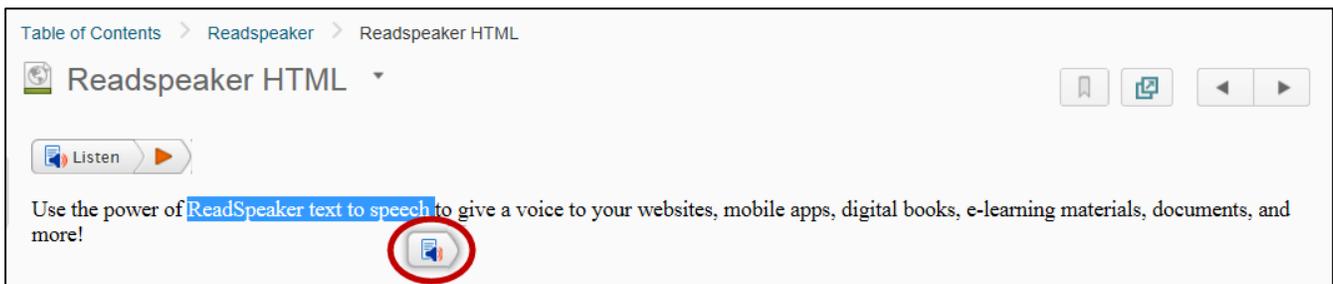


Figure 7 - Highlighted text and Listen button

ReadSpeaker Tools

The ReadSpeaker tools become available once you click *Play* on the ReadSpeaker *Listen* button (see Figure 8).

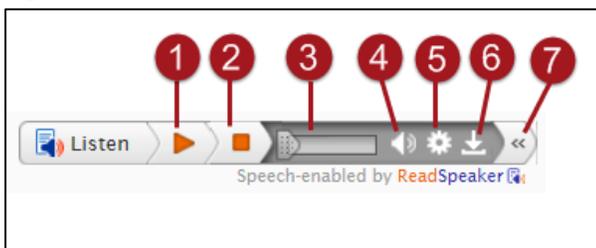


Figure 8 - ReadSpeaker Tools

1. Play button – starts the audio playback
2. Stop button – stops the audio playback
3. Seek bar – slide the tab to move to a specific place in the text.
4. Volume – adjust the volume
5. Settings – opens the settings panel
6. Download as MP3 – download the audio file as an mp3 file
7. Collapse – close the player tools to only show the play button

ReadSpeaker Settings Panel

Users have the ability to adjust highlighting, reading, and general settings via the ReadSpeaker tools.

Highlighting Settings allow you to do the following (see Figure 9):

- Enable/disable text highlighting
- Control the behavior of synchronized highlighting
- Choose the highlight color for words
- Choose the highlight color for sentences.

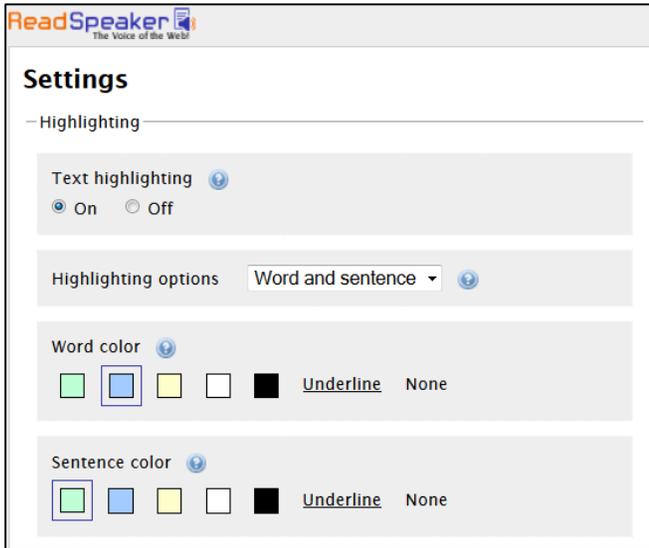


Figure 9 - Highlighting settings

Reading Settings allow you to choose the speed at which the text is read (see Figure 10).

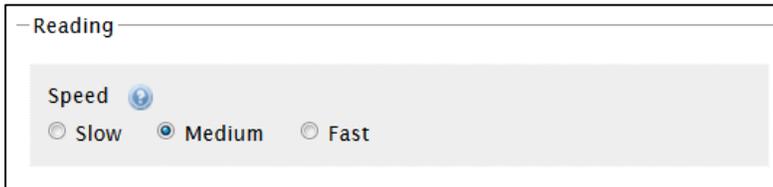


Figure 10 - Reading settings

General Settings allow you to do the following (see Figure 11):

- Enable/disable automatic scrolling. When switched on, the page will automatically scroll to follow the highlighted text.
- Control whether or not a pop-up button should be displayed when text is selected.



Figure 11 - General settings

How to turn on ReadSpeaker docReader

ReadSpeaker docReader allows users to listen to the text of an online document, for example, in PDF or Word format, while reading it. docReader uses text to speech to transform the text into sound. By having the text read aloud to you, you can understand the text more easily.

Supported Document Formats

- ePub (.epub)
- Microsoft Excel (.xls, .xlsx)
- Microsoft PowerPoint (.pps, .ppt, .pptx)
- Microsoft Word (.doc, .docx)
- OpenOffice/OpenDocument Presentation (.odp)
- OpenOffice/OpenDocument Spreadsheet (.ods)
- OpenOffice/OpenDocument Text (.odt)
- Portable Document Format (.pdf)
- Rich Text Format (.rtf)

1. From the course homepage, click **Content** on the Navbar (see Figure 12).

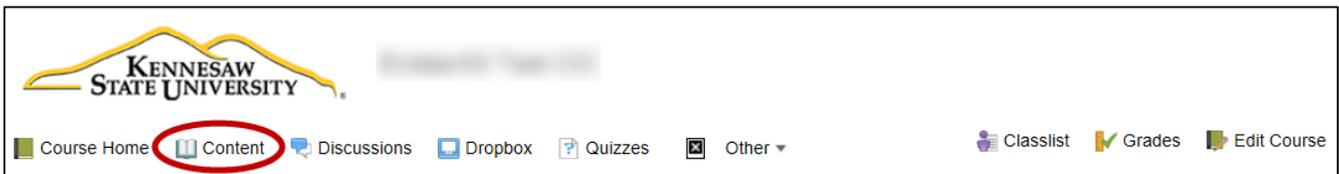


Figure 12 - Content

2. Select a document (see Figure 13).



Figure 13 - Select a document

3. Click the **Open with docReader** button (see Figure 14).

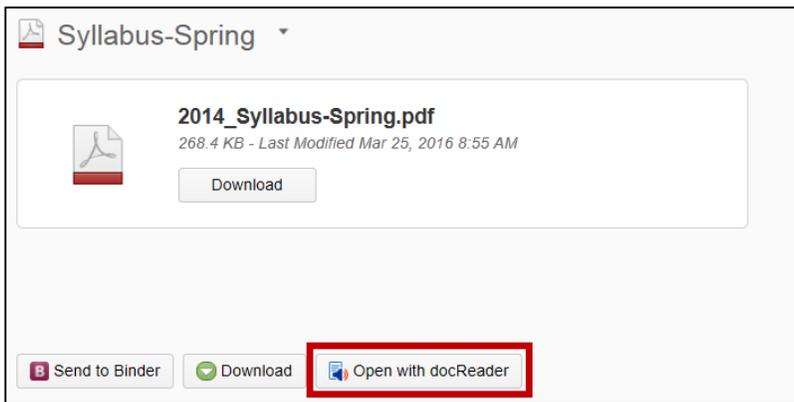


Figure 14 - Open with docReader button

The document will open in the docReader window (see Figure 15).

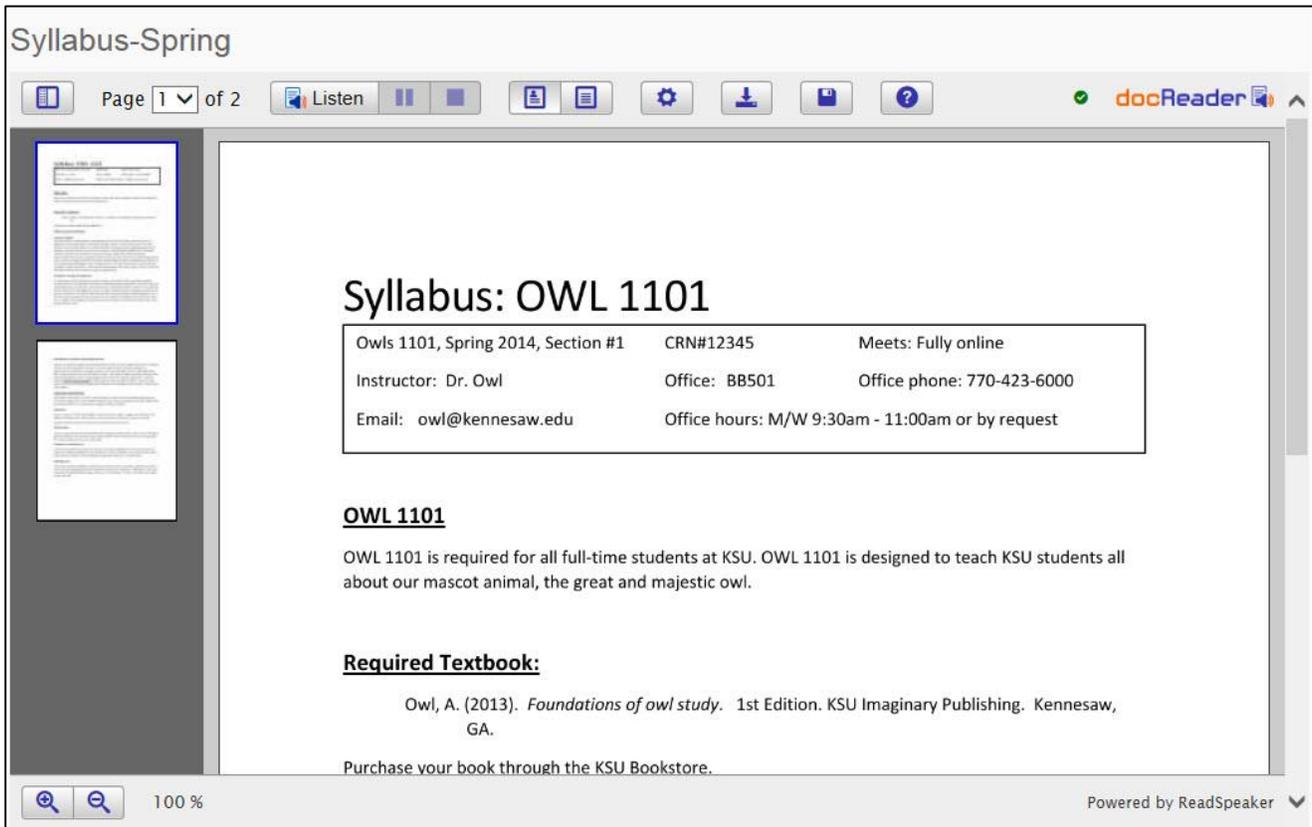
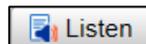


Figure 15 - docReader window

4. Click the **Listen** button in the toolbar to listen to the text for the document.



The docReader Toolbar



Figure 16 - docReader toolbar

	Show/Hide sidebar. Toggles the visibility of the thumbnail/outline sidebar.
	Page navigator. Jump directly to another page in the document.
	Play/Pause/Stop. Starts, pauses or stops the audio playback. Repeated clicks on the Listen button will restart the audio playback. Note that the pause button may not be visible in some configurations.
	Toggle between layout mode and text mode. Layout mode preserves the original page design, while in text mode, you can control the appearance of the text, such as typeface, text size and background/foreground colors.
	Settings. Opens/closes settings panel.
	Save audio file. Saves the audio file as an MP3 file to your computer. The audio file always contains the entire page.
	Save the original document to your computer.
	Help. Open this help document in a new window.
	Accessibility information. A green checkmark indicates that the document contains structural information, whereas a red checkmark indicates that the document does not contain this information. Note that accessibility information is only relevant for certain document types. If not relevant, the checkmark will not be displayed.

Table 1 – docReader tools

docReader Settings Panel

In the settings panel, you can change how the text from the document should be displayed and read.

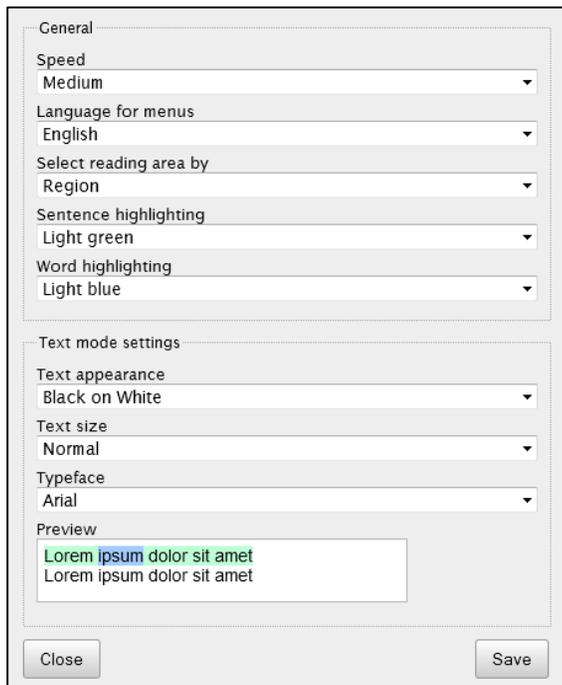


Figure 17 - docReader Settings

- **Reading Speed** - You can select between five different speeds to slow down the reading or speed it up.
- **Menu Language** - Select language for docReader’s menus and toolbar.
- **Select Reading Area** - Select which method docReader should use when reading parts of pages. The different selection modes are described in the section “How to Use docReader”.
- **Sentence Highlighting** - docReader offers synchronized highlighting of the text currently being read. You can select the type of sentence highlighting you want docReader to use. You can choose between different colors or underline. You can also tell docReader to not highlight sentences at all.
- **Word Highlighting** - docReader offers synchronized highlighting of the text currently being read. You can select the type of word highlighting you want docReader to use. As for sentence highlighting, you can choose between background colors, underline, or no word highlighting at all. Note! Some languages do not support word highlighting. If this is the case, this setting will not be displayed.
- **Text Appearance *** - Choose between different color combinations for the text and the background.
- **Text Size *** - You can increase or decrease the size of the text in the document.
- **Typeface *** - You can change the typeface of the text in the document.
- **Preview** - The changes you make to highlighting-related and text-related settings will be reflected automatically in the preview frame.

Note: The settings above marked with an asterisk (*) are only applicable for text mode.

Additional Help

For additional help or installation issues, please contact the KSU Service Desk:

KSU Service Desk for Faculty & Staff

- Phone: 470-578-6999
- Email: service@kennesaw.edu
- Website: <http://uits.kennesaw.edu>

KSU Service Desk for Students

- Phone: 470-578-3555
- Email: studenthelpdesk@kennesaw.edu
- Website: <http://uits.kennesaw.edu>