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TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

ReadSpeaker and docReader

D2L Brightspace – Daylight Experience:

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University Information Technology Services

D2L Brightspace – Daylight Experience: ReadSpeaker and docReader

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Introduction

ReadSpeaker provides text-to-speech solutions in *D2L Brightspace® – Daylight Experience*. It provides faculty and students with alternative methods for consuming text-based content, such as through listening to it directly or downloading it as a sound file 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 file using only their Internet browser. Users can also highlight and play back a subset of the content, as well as view and listen to documents using the *ReadSpeaker docReader*.

Learning Objectives

- Access *ReadSpeaker* and *docReader* in *D2L Brightspace® – Daylight Experience*
- Listen to HTML files in *ReadSpeaker*
- Adjust *ReadSpeaker* and *docReader* Settings
- Listen to files in *docReader*

System Requirements

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

- Firefox (latest version)
- Chrome (latest version)
- Microsoft Edge (latest version)
- Safari (latest version)
- Android Browser (latest version)
- iOS Safari (latest version)

Supported *docReader* 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)

How to Listen to an HTML File

Students may be able to listen to an HTML file if the instructor has enabled *Readspeaker* in the D2L Brightspace course. The following explains how to listen to an HTML file in a *Readspeaker* enabled course:

1. From the course homepage, click **Content** on the Navbar.



Figure 1 - Content

2. Click a **Web Page** file.

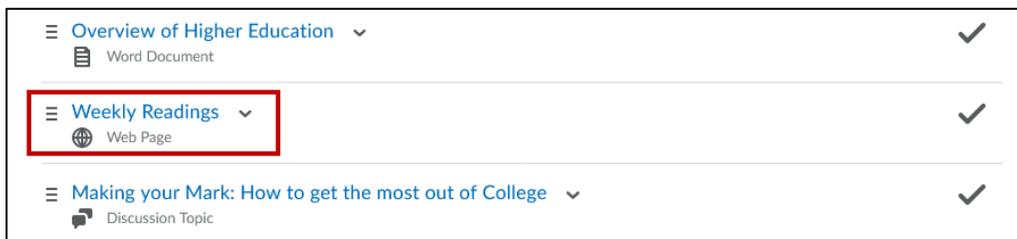


Figure 2 - Select an HTML file

3. Click the **Listen** icon. The text will be read by *Readspeaker*.

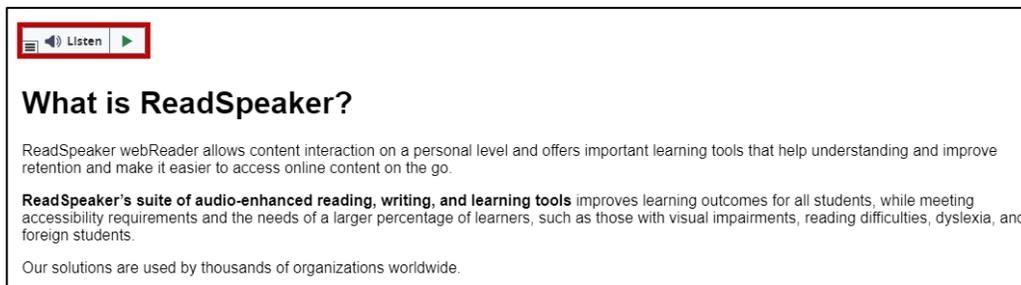


Figure 3 - Click the Listen Icon

How to Listen to a Selection of Text

The following explains how to listen to a selection of text in a *Readspeaker* enabled course:

1. Highlight the **area** of text that you would like to listen to (See Figure 4).
2. Click the **Play** button that appears (See Figure 4).

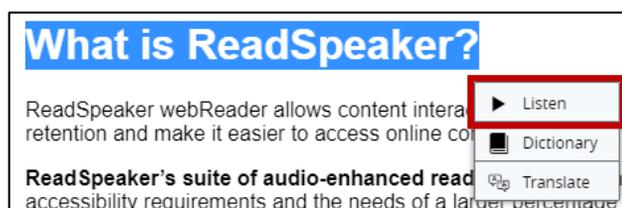


Figure 4 - Highlighted text and Listen button

ReadSpeaker Tools

The *ReadSpeaker* tools become available once you click the *ReadSpeaker* **Listen** icon.

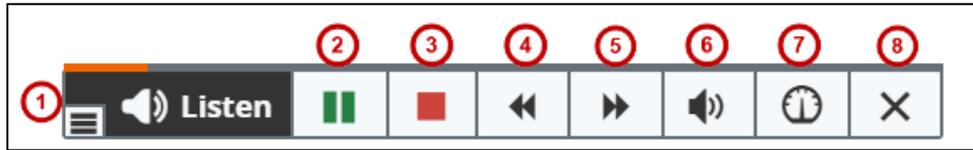


Figure 5 - ReadSpeaker Tools

1. **Open/Close Toolbar:** open/close the toolbar containing additional options (See Figure 5).
2. **Play/Pause button:** start or pause the audio playback (See Figure 5).
3. **Stop button:** stop the audio playback (See Figure 5).
4. **Seek bar:** slide the tab to move to a specific place in the text (See Figure 5).
5. **Volume:** adjust the volume (See Figure 5).
6. **Download as MP3:** download the audio file as an mp3 file (See Figure 5).
7. **Close:** close the player tools to only show the play button (See Figure 5).

ReadSpeaker Settings Panel

Users have the ability to adjust highlighting, reading, and general settings via the *ReadSpeaker* tools. To access the *Readspeaker* tools:

1. Click the **Open/Close Toolbar** button (See Figure 6).
2. Click the **Settings** button (See Figure 6).



Figure 6 - Open ReadSpeaker Settings Panel

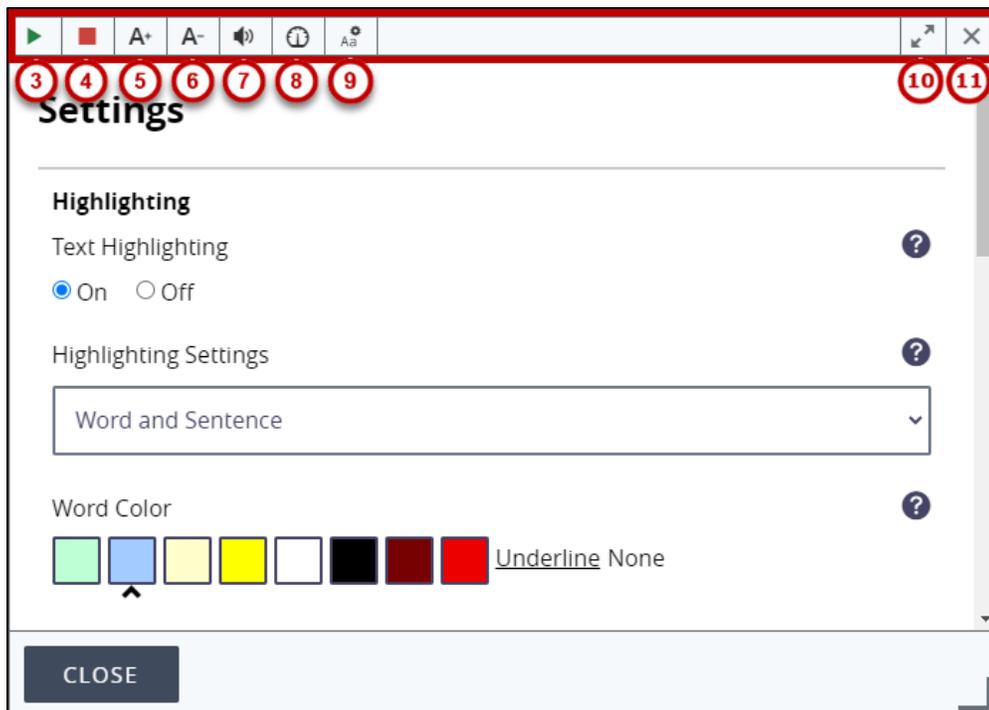


Figure 7 - ReadSpeaker Settings Panel

The *Settings* Panel will open. The toolbar for the *Settings* Panel is along the top bar of the dialog box and is comprised of the following tools:

3. **Play/Pause button:** start or pauses the audio playback (See Figure 7).
4. **Stop button:** stop the audio playback (See Figure 7).
5. **Font Increase:** click to increase the text size of the *Settings* Panel (See Figure 7).
6. **Font Decrease:** click to decrease the text size of the *Settings* Panel (See Figure 7).
7. **Volume Settings:** change the volume level of *ReadSpeaker* (See Figure 7).
8. **Reading Speed Settings:** open the *Reading Settings* tab (See Figure 7).
9. **Font Settings:** close the player tools to only show the play button (See Figure 7).
10. **Maximize Dialog box:** expand the *Settings* Panel to the maximize size (See Figure 7).
11. **Close Dialog box:** close the *Settings* Panel (See Figure 7).

Volume Settings

This setting allows you to choose the volume at which the text is read. It is recommended that you keep the volume at the maximum level and then control your sound settings with the computer's volume.



Figure 8 - Volume Settings

Reading Speed Settings

This setting allows you to choose the speed at which the text is read.

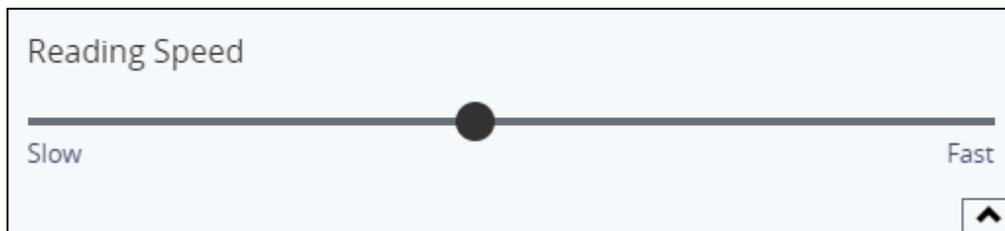


Figure 9 - Reading Settings

Text Settings

This settings has the following options. To adjust any of these options, click within the dropdown menu and make a selection:

1. Adjust the **font size** (See Figure 10).
2. Adjust the **font type** (See Figure 10).
3. Adjust the **font color** (See Figure 10).

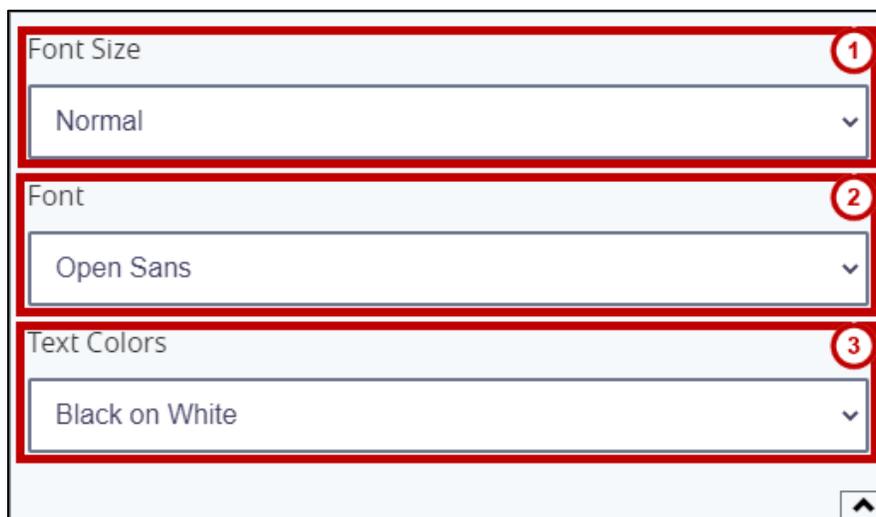


Figure 10 - Text Settings

Highlighting Settings

The Highlighting section allows you to change the following:

1. **Text Highlighting:** turns the text highlighting feature **On** or **Off** (See Figure 11).
2. **Highlighting Settings:** choose which portions of the text you want highlighted (See Figure 11).
3. **Word Color:** choose the highlight color for the words (See Figure 11).
4. **Sentence Color:** choose the highlight color for the sentence (See Figure 11).
5. **Text Color:** choose the color of the text (See Figure 11).

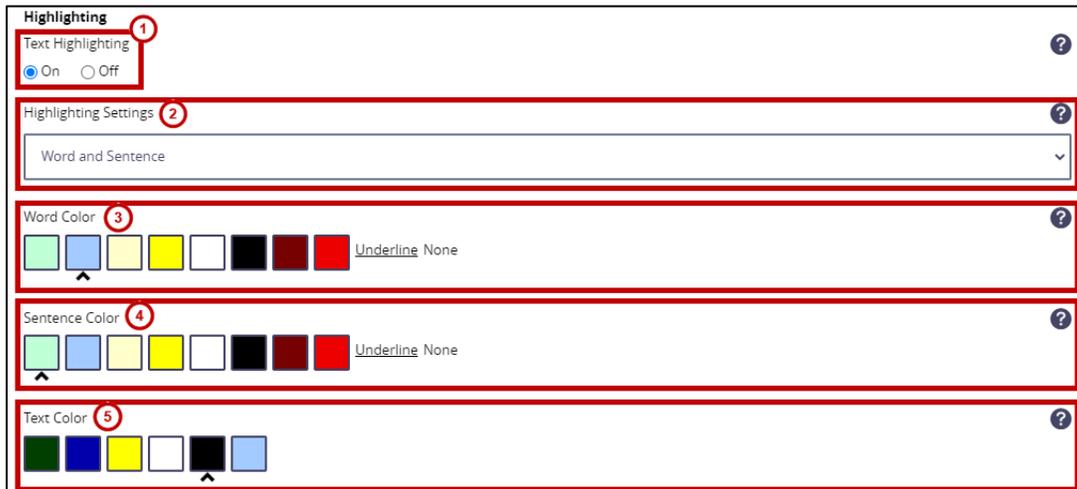


Figure 11 - Highlighting settings

General Settings

General settings allow you to do the following:

1. **Automatic Scrolling:** turn automatic scrolling when reading **On** or **Off** (See Figure 12).
2. **Text-selection Pop-up Menu:** turn the text-selection pop-up menu **On** or **Off** (See Figure 12).
3. **Close Pop-up menu for Selected Text:** select whether the text-selection pop-up menu will close automatically or not close (See Figure 12).
 - a. If the text-selection pop-up menu is set to automatically close, set it to close after a certain number of seconds.
4. **Privacy Information:** select the **question mark** icon for additional details (See Figure 12).

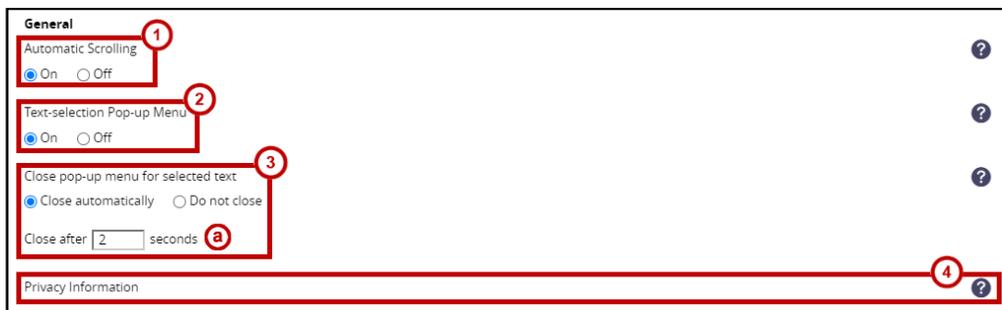


Figure 12 - General settings

Restore Default Settings

Restore all the *ReadSpeaker* settings to their default configurations.

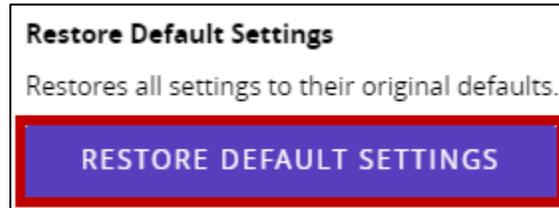


Figure 13 - Restore Default Settings

How to Turn on ReadSpeaker docReader

ReadSpeaker docReader allows users to listen to the text of an online document, (e.g. PDF or Word format). *docReader* uses text-to-speech to transform the text into sound.

1. From the *Course Home* page, click **Content** on the Navbar.

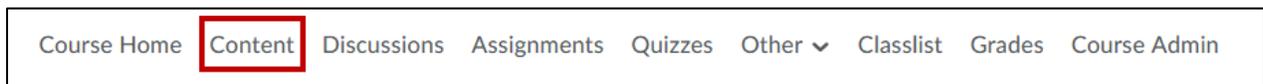


Figure 14 - Content

2. Click a **document**.

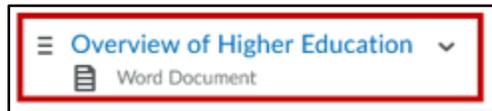


Figure 15 - Select a document

3. Click the **Open with docReader** button.



Figure 16 - Click the Open with docReader button

4. The document will open in the *docReader* window. Click the **Listen** button to listen to the text of the document.



Figure 17 - docReader window

The docReader Toolbar

The following provides an overview of the *docReader* toolbar:

1. **Show/Hide Sidebar:** toggle the visibility of the thumbnail/outline sidebar (See Figure 18).
2. **Page Navigator:** jump directly to another page in the document (See Figure 18).
3. **Listen:** start audio playback of the file (See Figure 18).
4. **Pause:** pause audio playback of the file (See Figure 18).
5. **Stop:** stop audio playback of the file (See Figure 18).
6. **Layout Mode:** toggle your view to *Layout mode*, which preserves the original page design (See Figure 18).
7. **Text Mode:** toggle your view to *Text Mode*. In text mode, you can control the appearance of the text (e.g. typeface, text size and background/foreground colors) (See Figure 18).
8. **More Tools:** access additional *docReader* tools (See Figure 18).
9. **Help:** navigate to the *docReader* help page (See Figure 18).



Figure 18 - docReader toolbar

Additional Help

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

KSU Service Desk for Students

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