

Your Talk Back Licence

This Talk Back Help Me text will ensure that you get the best from Talk Back. Having written a cheque for it, you should read this whole document, so printing it out now makes good sense. There's about 9 pages.

Also, now you've installed Talk Back on your computer, please read the following brief licence agreement:

Talking Technologies International Limited creates and develops software applications, providing versatile voice environments. Innovative work represents considerable time, effort, and expertise. By accepting this disk you have agreed to respect our copyright.

Like most software, it is offered with a one-user licence. The copyright laws allow you to make one personal backup copy of this disk, but do not allow you to make partial or complete copies for others.

Any violation of our copyright would inevitably have very serious consequences so, if you are in any doubt about your rights and duties, please call us to clarify your legal position.

The licence does allow you to change various text files, once they have been installed on your computer.

Talking Technologies International Limited is committed to innovation, continual development, and technical excellence. Our work has been offered to you in good faith, but revisions are inevitable and no responsibility can be accepted for any omissions, loss, or damage.

If you would like to reproduce any of this text, please contact us well before copy date. Your text must acknowledge our copyright.

Writing software applications inevitably requires compromise, to successfully unite diverse aspirations and contradictions.

If you have any comments, or suggestions, please call. Your ideas will help create standards, making voice the natural and effective interface for future technologies. We would be happy to work with you to create new applications, or help you integrate voice into your existing applications.

Talking Technologies International Limited is the Creator, Distributor, and Technical Support Centre for Talk Back products.

**Talking Technologies International Limited 34A Glazbury Road London W14 9AS
vx 0171 602 4107 fx 0171 603 2109 talk@easynet.co.uk www.talk-systems.com**

What Is Talk Back

Talk Back gives your computer a voice. She'll talk to you, and read almost any text from any Windows 95 and NT applications in English. English, not American. Not even Trans-Atlantic.

She's at an intensive language course, studying Dutch, French, German, Italian, and Spanish. So, keep in touch.

Well, of course, it's only a bit of software. But perhaps we all are.

Talk Back has a bit of real-time intelligence, and tries to apply the capricious rules of language to any bit of text you can give it. The voice quality is seriously impressive and is a real advance in speech synthesis.

What You Can Do With It

listen to your emails - whilst you do something better
try out presentations - check them for punctuation, content, and context
listen to your letters - just as others will read them
sit back away from the screen - rest your eyes
listen to that novel you started writing - is it easy to follow
hear those long 'read me' files - as you set up your new application
spell words letter by letter, or hear a word at a time - great for children
help resolve spelling and reading problems - learn by association
help a speech problem - give yourself a 'voice'
work on film scripts - give each player a voice
develop talking applications - work more easily
get started with learning English - the easy way
make announcements from typed text - ideal for public services
just have fun - yes, that's OK too

How To Install Talk Back

Talk Back comes on a CD. It needs Windows 95 or NT, 6MB RAM, and a Soundblaster compatible sound card. It will not work in DOS nor on a MAC.

It should work with almost any Soundblaster/Windows 95 compatible sound system. A few sound cards are problematic but a good test is to try some of the Multimedia applications that come with Windows.

Put the Talk Back CD in the tray, and install it like any other application - Start, Run, then d:\setup.exe. Accept the default installation suggestions - unless you have a really convincing reason for changing the drive, path, or folder.

Take it out when it's done. **Put it back in its box.**

To use it simultaneously with VoicePad or VoicePlus, or any other voice recognition product, you must have a full duplex (two-way) sound card. True full duplex sound cards are rare, and sound-in with simultaneous sound-out rarely works properly. You may have to turn the microphone on and off by keyboard or mouse, not voice, to give Talk Back access to the sound card. However, anyone who understands MS Word or Visual Basic macros could probably write a short piece of code to get around this.

Call us if you experience any problems, or check out www.talk-systems.com.

What Do You Get On Screen

Once it is installed, start Talk Back like any other application - Start, Programs, then Talk Back.

The Talk Back button bar has small pink buttons that look just like the familiar Play, Pause, Stop, Program, and Eject buttons on your CD player.

Like any other window, you can move the Talk Back button bar somewhere convenient, and leave it there.

Whichever application you have on screen, Talk Back will always stay on top, where you can find it.

Remember to close the Talk Back button bar, using the Eject button, before you shut down Windows.

Using Talk Back By Mouse

Whichever application you have on screen, select some of the on-screen text with the mouse, copy it - using Copy from the Edit menu - and click on Play.

Talk Back now talks to you - until you click Pause or Stop. Clicking Play, after Pause, lets Talk Back resume talking.

The Program button lets you change the voicing options.

That's all you have to do. There's no manual. And, to make it even easier, it's virtually user independent - so trouble-free.

Using Talk Back From The Keyboard

You can also select text using SHIFT and the arrow keys, or CONTROL+SHIFT and the arrow keys. Other keys - HOME, END, PAGE UP, PAGE DOWN - can be used as well. The

best way to learn these combinations is to experiment.

Most applications let you select all the text using CONTROL+A and copy it with CONTROL+C.

CONTROL+SHIFT+1 presses the Play button and CONTROL+SHIFT+4 presses the Program button and opens the Talk Back Options.

If you want to get smart, these keyboard controls can be generated by a Visual Basic macro or a voice recognition command.

Talk Back has been designed to be mouse or keyboard operated. This means that any voice recognition system can be used to control Talk Back, within the duplex capability of your sound card.

How To Change The Voice Options

Click the Program button on the Talk Back button bar. From the Talk Back Options dialog you can now choose exactly the type of voicing you want:

Gender	Female or male
Name	who do you want - Theresa, Natalie, Louise, Mickey, Charles, Howard ...
Mode	they'll spell for you, say a word at a time, or just chat away - non stop
Language	only English today - but they're all on intensive courses
Volume	a whisper, a comforting reminder, a conversation, or from next door
Speed	slow through to fast - what does 200 words a minute sounds like
Pitch	attentive, indifferent, party-time, husky, not happy, or telling it like it is

All the options, and the Test and OK buttons, can be used from the keyboard, as well as by mouse. For example:

ALT+n moves the focus to the list of names. ALT+DOWN drops the list. The UP and DOWN keys allow you to move up and down the list. And TAB closes the list.

Note that ENTER does not close the dialog. It's ALT+o. This is because many first-time users pressed ENTER to accept a selection from a list, resulting in the dialog being closed prematurely.

Talk Back includes a short piece of internal text, so that you can test your choice. Just click on the Test button. As soon as you like the way it sounds, click OK to close the

Options, and Talk Back is ready to talk again.

Problems

If the speech breaks up it is almost certain that you do not have the latest sound card software conforming to Windows standards. Talk to the sound card manufacturer or download the software from their www. And check that the playback quality is set to 11.025 kHz or better.

If your text contains a lot of asterisks, call us. But try and avoid using them. The asterisk is used by the Customizer as a control symbol, although you can change it to another symbol.

Notes On The UK English Version

There are no global rules that will ensure that Talk Back will always pronounce numbers correctly. Try some of the following examples:

Telephone Numbers

(0171) 602 4107

+44 (0171) 602 4107

+44-171-602 4107

+44.171.602.4107

0171 602 4107

0171 6 0 2 4 1 0 7

Bank Accounts, Policies, and Part Numbers

2244-171-603

12345

1 2 3 4 5

3,678

Dates

25/12/97

01/01/1999

October 29 1944

October 29, 1944

1,944

Times

12:15

12:15:59

4:30 pm

8:15 am

Currency

£39

\$49

59 francs

4000 pesetas

Abbreviations And Acronyms

Talk Back already has an internal table of common abbreviations and acronyms.

However, many people are unclear about which abbreviation need a full stop. The rule is that the full stop represents missing letters.

Doctor is Dr because there are no missing characters after the r.

Established is Est. because there are missing characters after the t.

As far as Talk Back is concerned, it will sort out some of the ambiguities if it can find a hint in the text. For example, Dr. will be said as Drive if it's followed by a capital letter. Similarly, St. will be said as Saint if it's followed by a capital letter. However, this may depend on the talking mode.

Modern business English is gradually dropping all these abbreviation full stops whenever the meaning is clear. Mr. Mrs. Dr. etc are rarely used.

The Talk Back Customizer

So, if Talk Back is so clever, why do you need to customize it?

Talk Back is pretty good at dealing with pronunciation, even for difficult words. But there will always be words - places, people, abbreviations, acronyms, retail products, legal words, email prompts, foreign phrases, insect names, scientific symbols, computer codes, school words - even made-up words - that have unusual pronunciations, or you just prefer them to be pronounced slightly differently.

The Talk Back Customizer allows you to modify pronunciations to make the overall speech as fluid and natural as possible. It's easy to learn how to do this, and you don't have to worry about computer programming.

When Talk Back pre-processes text before starting to talk, it checks the Customizer first to modify any specified subsequent pronunciations. This allows Talk Back to master specialist subjects like travel, language learning, weather reports, computer programming, chemistry, fashion, food, biology, football, music history - anything where the normal pronunciation rules are just not enough.

Or maybe you want to colour the whole talking process to give some special effect. You can modify a wide range of speech parameters, using in-text Modifier Codes that give you extensive control over every aspect of Talk Back. You can use alternative phonetics, insert pauses, include telephone dial tones, modify accents, change the sentence cadence, sort out homonyms, change the volume or speed, let it spell - even switch voices. With a bit of practice you could write a whole play using the different voices.

The degree of modification possible is really impressive. Once you've begun to experiment, you'll find all sorts of uses for Talk Back.

The Talk Back Customizer comes on floppy and costs £17.63, including VAT and delivery. If you're interested, post us a cheque, call us, or look at our [www](#).