











# — D n A 's App Guide —




( An introduction to useful apps, freeware and Open Source Software Strategies )



Tool/ Strategy Description	End User Review
<p><b>Balabolka</b></p> <p>(free)  <a href="http://www.cross-plus-a.com/balabolka.htm">http://www.cross-plus-a.com/balabolka.htm</a></p> <p>Balabolka is a text-to-speech program for PCs which works with all computer voices installed on your system. It is able to recognise multiple file formats and the on-screen text can be saved in a wide range of audio formats. The program allows you to format the text, change numbers in the text with words, find homographs in the text, and even set the program to read foreign words with another voice.</p> 	<p>“Balabolka is very popular with international students and students unable to access DSA support. It’s similar to Text help Read&amp;Write GOLD or Claro Read. In comparison to other freeware like Natural Reader, I find the voices to be much easier to follow. Balabolka uses preinstalled voices and has extra voices that can be bought at a small cost. Users can write their essays straight into Balabolka. The text is highlighted and a spell checker can be added to the software. It also has the added bonus of being able to turn text into MP3 audio files and its speech maker buttons can be very useful when preparing for lectures or exam revision.”</p> <p>– Atif Choudhury, Senior DNA Trainer</p> <p><b>Recommended for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Text-To-Speech</li> <li>• Alternative strategy to reading</li> <li>• Reinforce learning through MP3 playback</li> </ul>
<p><b>CamStudio</b></p> <p>(free)  <a href="http://camstudio.org/">http://camstudio.org/</a></p> <p>CamStudio is an open source software program for Microsoft Windows, which records all screen and audio activity on your computer and render it into AVI video format. These video files can also be converted to embedded Flash format. You can use CamStudio to create demonstration videos for any software program, to create video tutorials, to record problems with your computer, and to record any information, techniques or tricks from your favourite software programs.</p> 	<p>“Many of our students face areas of concern regarding remembering everything that we show them in our training sessions. Students don’t always want to spend time writing notes about their session with us, yet they need to retain the unique, personalised training they receive. CamStudio allows both DnA trainers and students to record their movements on screen, allowing for tailor-made training video guides for reflexive learning. Mini videos can also be made on specific sections in the programs, so that the whole session is not recording, for example, “how to change the background colour in Microsoft Word. This is an excellent program for those students who really struggle to remember what has been shown to them on screen.”</p> <p><b>Recommended for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Records AT training sessions to reinforce learning at later date</li> </ul>

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<p><b>Camtasia for Windows</b>            (£220, free trial)  <a href="http://www.techsmith.com/camtasia.html">http://www.techsmith.com/camtasia.html</a></p> <p>This is a screen-recording tool that allows DnA trainers to record everything we do on screen to help students go over what they have learnt after their training session has finished.</p> 	<p>"Cereproc's voices are a great download for students using any text to speech software. These voices can be downloaded for free as long as you register with a .ac.uk email address. An excellent add-on that gives the user the option of using a voice that comes with a sense of breath and intonation."            - Adam Hyland, Senior DnA Trainer</p> <p><b>Recommended for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Downloadable voices for text-to Speech tools</li> </ul>
<p><b>Cereproc</b>            (free with registration)  <a href="http://www.cereproc.com/">http://www.cereproc.com/</a>  <a href="http://www.cereproc.com/en/post16learners">http://www.cereproc.com/en/post16learners</a></p> <p>Cereproc provides students and staff of registered post-16 educational institutions with the option of downloading two natural and modern voices for text to speech software</p> 	<p>"Cereproc's voices are a great download for students using any text to speech software. These voices can be downloaded for free as long as you register with a .ac.uk email address. An excellent add-on that gives the user the option of using a voice that comes with a sense of breath and intonation."            - Adam Hyland, Senior DnA Trainer</p> <p><b>Recommended for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Downloadable voices for text-to Speech tools</li> </ul>
<p><b>Drop Box</b>            (free)  <a href="https://www.dropbox.com/">https://www.dropbox.com/</a></p> <p>Dropbox is a file hosting service that enables users to create a special folder on each of their computers, which Dropbox then synchronises so that it appears to be the same folder (with the same contents) regardless of the computer it is viewed on. Files placed in this folder are also accessible through a web site and mobile phone applications.</p> 	<p>"Have you ever been in the situation where you have lost your USB stick or forgotten it? Dropbox allows you to have files on the go. Simply drop a file into Dropbox, then log onto dropbox.com and these files can then be accessed anywhere. This allows you to work with files on the go, for example on the train, tube, bus or even a plane! It is also great for sharing and working in groups, and what's more, it's free!"            - Atif Choudhury, Senior DNA Trainer</p> <p><b>Recommended for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Backing up</li> <li>Memory support strategy</li> </ul>




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<p><b>Evernote</b></p> <p>(free)  <a href="http://evernote.com/">http://evernote.com/</a></p> <p>Evernote is software designed for note taking and archiving. It enables you to save and collate "notes" of all different kinds, from a piece of formatted text, a full webpage or clip, a photograph, a voice memo, or even a handwritten note. You can add file attachments to notes and also sort them into folders, tag, edit, comment on and share notes. Evernote is compatible with a range of operating systems and can be synced with your computer automatically.</p> 	<p>"Do you sometimes forget to take your Dictaphone with you? Or do you get frustrated with all the wires hanging around your bedroom? Evernote allows users to access notes, photos and clippings anywhere. There is a downloadable app for the computer, phone and also a web-login. Users can record lectures on mobile devices as well as making notes at the same time. Once it has finished recording, users will automatically be able to access the file on their computer through wireless syncing features. What's more, if like me you get lost around campus or lose your car in a car park; Evernote will also allow you to take photos and will tell you where you took the photo, using the GPS coordinates to find your way back to your car!"</p> <p>- Atif Choudhury, Senior DNA Trainer</p> <p><b>Recommended for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Backing up</li> <li>• Memory support strategy</li> </ul>
<p><b>Evernote Clearly</b></p> <p>(free)  <a href="http://evernote.com/clearly/">http://evernote.com/clearly/</a></p> <p>Clearly makes blog posts, articles and webpages clean and easy to read. Save them to Evernote to read them anywhere.</p> 	<p>Clearly is a pretty simple add-on; having difficulty reading a web-page? Text too small? Adverts too distracting? One click of a button and Clearly will remove all distractions from the page, change the background colour &amp; font settings to a customisable preset (which gives some surprising level of detail) and allow you to read much more comfortably. It also helps with screen-reading software and, being part of Evernote, can be quickly added to your notebook for reading later.</p> <p>Compatible with Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox for Windows and Mac.</p> <p><b>Recommended for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improves visual fatigue</li> <li>• Increases text size</li> </ul>

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<p><b>FreeMind</b>            (free)  <a href="http://freemind.sourceforge.net/wiki/index.php/Download">http://freemind.sourceforge.net/wiki/index.php/Download</a></p> <p>Clearly makes blog posts, articles and webpages clean and easy to read. Save them to Evernote to read them anywhere.</p> 	<p>“A very popular open source free downloadable mind mapping program that exports to Word/Open Office. It is useful for project-building and workload organisation, but doesn’t allow you to change the background colour, which is shame. However, if you’re keen to start mind mapping and cost is an issue than Free Mind is a brilliant place to start.”</p> <p>– <i>Atif Choudhury, Senior DNA Trainer</i></p> <p><b>Recommended for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mind mapping</li> <li>• Revision</li> <li>• Essay structure</li> </ul>
<p><b>Google Calendar</b>            (free)  <a href="http://www.google.com">http://www.google.com</a></p> <p>Google Calendar offers a free online calendar that allows you to colour code different events and deadlines. Furthermore, the calendar can be set to send free text and email reminders and can be synched to all smartphones.</p> 	<p>“Google Calendar is an excellent time management tool for many students. The user can add their lectures and assignment deadlines as well as their SpLD tutoring appointments. Students can use colour coding for different entries, synch their calendar to their smartphone and set up free SMS text message reminders. An invaluable tool for students needing time management strategies.”</p> <p>– <i>Adam Hyland, Senior DnA Trainer</i></p> <p><b>Recommended for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Time &amp; organisational management</li> </ul>
<p><b>Mindmeister</b>            (free - £14.99/mth)  <a href="https://www.mindmeister.com/pricing">https://www.mindmeister.com/pricing</a></p> <p>Mindmeister is quick and effective mind mapping program that allows you to visualise your ideas. It can be completed online, on a smart phone or tablet. Mind maps can be shared with friends so that you can all work on the same map at once.</p> 	<p>“I personally am a big user of Mindmeister. This piece of software enables me to mind map ideas on my smart phone or tablet. I like this app as I can physically move the ideas around at the touch of my finger. Any mind map that I do on these devices automatically syncs with a log-in on the Mindmeister website. I can also work and share any creation by inviting users by email, or simply send them a unique and secure direct link. Once shared, you can all work on the same mind map together which is great for group presentations. Notes, images and web links can all be inserted onto your ideas.”</p> <p><b>Recommended for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online &amp; collaborative mind mapping</li> </ul>


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<p><b>Mahara</b>            (free)  <a href="https://mahara.org/">https://mahara.org/</a></p> <p>Mahara is an open source ePortfolio and social networking web application created by the government of New Zealand. It provides users with tools to create and develop a digital portfolio of their learning, while the social networking features allow users to interact with each other. Features include blogs, a resume builder, a file manager and a tool called a 'view creator', which helps users create particular arrangements of their content to share with others.</p> 	<p>"Mahara is an online tool that uses simple drag and drop functionality. Drag and drop text boxes, image and video boxes to create a customised portfolio in a number of column views. It allows you to make newsletters and magazines that can be emailed. As it all cloud based it allows different groups to make visual and written contributions from wherever they are!"</p> <p>- Atif Choudhury, Senior DNA Trainer</p> <p><b>Recommended for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating online portfolios of work</li> <li>• Revision</li> </ul>
<p><b>My Study Bar</b>            (free)  <a href="http://eduapps.org/?page_id=7">http://eduapps.org/?page_id=7</a></p> <p>My Study Bar is free assistive technology software for PCs, designed by the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) in order to assist individuals with individual impairments, dyslexia and other reading and writing difficulties. The My Study Bar tools are designed to support the complete study cycle from research, planning and structuring, to getting across a written or spoken message. The toolbar has 6 sections with drop down menus for each, enabling flexible and independent learning.</p> 	<p>"My Study Bar integrates mind mapping software (using Xmind) and text-to-speech software (using Balabolka). Word prediction software, a typing tutor, screen colour changer and a magnifier are all integrated into one handy portable set of tools. Yes - you really can put My Study Bar onto a USB stick and take it around with you! It is very helpful to international students and students unable to access the DSA support. We hope My Study Bar will continue to play a big role in improving accessibility for all!"</p> <p>- Atif Choudhury, Senior DNA Trainer</p> <p><b>Recommended for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Text-to-Speech</li> <li>• Mind mapping</li> <li>• Improving visual fatigue</li> <li>• Spell checker</li> </ul>
<p><b>Natural Reader</b>            (free for mobile and free limited PC version)  <a href="http://www.naturalreaders.com/order_information.php">http://www.naturalreaders.com/order_information.php</a></p> <p>Natural Reader is Text-to-Speech software which can convert any written text such as MS Word, Webpages, PDF files, and Emails into spoken words. Users can download the toolbar to their computer which can then be used to play back text files.</p> 	<p>"This free piece of software allows users to convert their written text into audio files such as mp3. The built in voices of Natural Reader can be personalised for individual learning styles and students can choose a voice that suits them. Voices can be sped up or slowed down also allowing you to highlight the text in Microsoft Word for it to play back. Students can be proactive with their learning and walk to university or college listening to their texts on their iPhone, smart phone or iPod etc."</p> <p><b>Recommended for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Text-To-Speech</li> <li>• Alternative strategy to reading</li> <li>• Reinforce learning through MP3 playback</li> </ul>

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<p><b>Open Office</b></p> <p>(free)  <a href="http://www.openoffice.org/">http://www.openoffice.org/</a></p> <p>Open Office is a suite of open source software containing word processing, spread sheet, presentation, graphics and database applications. It works with most operating systems and supports of 120 languages. It can also handle other file formats including those from Microsoft Office.</p> 	<p>“Ever struggle with affording to buy Microsoft office? Open Office is a piece of software with very similar functions to Microsoft Office and the great thing about it, is that it is FREE! Built into Open Office is a Text Document, which is similar to Microsoft Word and allows users to write their assignments into it, as well it being able to open up in Microsoft Word down at the University! Presentation mode allows students to complete and make their own Powerpoints and will once again open in Microsoft Office. Don’t get caught up in the expense of buying Microsoft office again!”</p> <p><b>Recommended for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alternative word processor, database and presentation tool</li> </ul>
<p><b>Prezi</b></p> <p>(free)  <a href="http://prezi.com/">http://prezi.com/</a></p> <p>This amazing online presentation program runs along the lines of PowerPoint but doesn’t go in a linear fashion. It enables you to tell stories about your work in really creative ways and can be shared with friends and colleagues. Users can type their ideas anywhere on screen before planning the path for the presentation. YouTube videos can be added as well pictures that you have stored on your computer, making it interactive and eye catching.</p> 	<p>“Prezi is a 360 degree, cloud-based, presentation-software revolution! Okay, a lot of jargon there, so I’ll break it down: Presentation software - Prezi gives you the ability to liven up any talk or presentation you’re giving by adding text, images, videos and (most importantly) excitement! 360 degree – Unlike traditional ‘linear’ presentation software, Prezi gives you a gigantic canvas upon which you can place the images, videos and text anywhere you want. Then, you can set the order of the presentation by plotting the way the point-of-view camera zooms, spins and slides across the canvas. Cloud-based - this means your presentations are accessible anywhere there is a web connection, and the only software you need on the computer is an up-to-date web-browser. Revolution - if all of the above doesn’t sound revolutionary enough to you, then how do web-conference presentations (no need to be in the same room, town or even country whilst giving the presentation), real-time, shared presentation creation (so you can make group-presentations together, from the comfort of your own homes), and downloadable Prezis (take your finished presentations to the top of Ben Nevis, or deep underground with you) sound? With Prezi, seeing is believing.”</p> <p>- <i>Oliver Budgen, DNA Trainer</i></p> <p><b>Recommended for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online collaborative presentation tool</li> <li>• Mind mapping</li> </ul>







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<p><b>QuickTime for Apple</b>            (free)  <a href="http://www.apple.com/uk/quicktime/">http://www.apple.com/uk/quicktime/</a></p> <p>QuickTime is a multimedia framework which handles a range of formats of digital video, picture, sound, and interactive screen processes. This software allows DnA trainers to record everything they do on screen.</p> 	<p>“Quicktime enables us as trainers to record everything we teach on screen. If you are anything like me you are prone to forgetting things! So with Quicktime it enables you to never forget anything and the videos are personalised to your individual needs, made with your own unique learning style taken into account.”</p> <p><b>Recommended for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Records AT training sessions to reinforce learning at later date</li> </ul>
<p><b>XMind</b>            (free limited, older version available for free)  <a href="http://www.xmind.net/pricing/">http://www.xmind.net/pricing/</a></p> <p>XMind is a brainstorming and mind mapping software tool developed to assist users in capturing ideas, organising various charts, and sharing the results with collaboration.</p> 	<p>“The 3.0.1 version of X mind is Free and downloadable Mind Mapping software for both MAC and PC. It’s similar to Mind Manager but has the added functionality of integrating the Map and Outline view simultaneously on the same screen, which is great especially if you like dual coding or using concept maps to support you in exam revision. XMind also has a number of different design themes, but exporting the map can only be done in plain text HTML form.”</p> <p>– Atif Choudhury, Senior DNA Trainer</p> <p><b>Recommended for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mind mapping</li> <li>• Revision</li> <li>• Essay structure</li> </ul>
<p><b>Zotero</b>            (free)  <a href="http://www.zotero.org/">http://www.zotero.org/</a></p> <p>Zotero is free and open-source reference management software designed to manage bibliographic data and related research materials (such as PDFs). Its features can be integrated with web browsers, online syncing, in-text citations, footnotes and bibliographies, as well as integration with the word processing software including Microsoft Word and Open Office. Zotero saves information from journals, books and websites and converts it into the correct referencing style, such as Harvard.</p> 	<p>“I remember when I was a student how much time I would spend writing my Bibliography and actually took me nearly the same amount of time as completed the assignment. I also used to really struggle remembering what books I had used and where I had found quotes from. This program allows you to add notes to your references so you don’t have to remember where you got them. Another amazing function is being able to cite references within the text, using the plug-in function for Microsoft Word.”</p> <p>– Atif Choudhury, Senior DNA Trainer</p> <p><b>Recommended for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Referencing &amp; citation tool</li> </ul>



# - MOBILE APPLICATIONS -

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<p><b>Audionote</b></p> <p>(£2.99 App store, Google play)  <a href="http://luminantsoftware.com/">http://luminantsoftware.com/</a></p> <p>AudioNote combines the functionality of a notepad and voice recorder to create a powerful tool that will save you time while improving the quality of your notes. It's the perfect app for students or business.</p> <p>By synchronizing notes and audio, AudioNote automatically indexes your meetings, lectures, interviews, or study sessions. Need to review the discussion about deliverables on your next project? Trying to remember what the professor had to say about a key point? With AudioNote there is no need to waste time searching through the entire recording to find out. Each note acts as a link directly to the point at which it was recorded, taking you instantly to what you want to hear. Didn't take any notes during the meeting? No problem, you can add them later.</p> <p>A fully functional note application, AudioNote also increases the value of your notes. Watch as your text, drawings, and photos highlight during playback, helping you to remember the context in which they were taken.</p> 	<p>Audionote helps students to make the most of their class-time. With this tool, they can record audio and annotate with text, hand drawn sketches, lines, shapes and even photographs.</p> <p>Every element they put into the document is time-stamped, enabling the student to quickly and easily jump to exact points when listening back to the recordings at a later point. These elements will also light up whenever the audio reaches their creation point, to help anyone reviewing the recording keep track.</p> <p>The application is cross-platform, and free 'lite' versions are available on Mac and Pc to review recordings made on phones and tablets. Transferring is very simple, either through cloud-based storage, or via USB-cable connection.</p> <p>Admittedly the user interface could benefit from a few more customisation options (particularly the page colours) and the recording quality is no match for dedicated dictaphones. Despite these issues, AudioNote is still a useful addition to a student's learning-armoury.</p> <p><b>Recommended for?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Note taking</li> <li>• Audio recording</li> </ul>








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<p><b>ClaroPDF</b>            (£0.69 App store)  <a href="http://www.claro-apps.com/ClaroPDF.html">http://www.claro-apps.com/ClaroPDF.html</a></p> <p>ClaroPDF is an accessible, professional and user-friendly PDF Viewer, Reader and Annotator. View text PDF files and listen to them with a human quality voice and synchronised highlighting. Annotate and mark up text or image PDF files with full compatibility with other popular PDF apps and PDF programs in Windows and Mac.</p> 	<p>The iPad's text-to-speech options, whilst pleasantly forward-thinking, leave a little to be desired; particularly when it comes to reading PDF documents. ClaroPDF very nearly fills that gap by allowing users to have PDF documents read to them - as well as giving the ability to choose from a number of voices or change background/highlighting colours. The main short falling that we've found is that it lacks an OCR for PDFs that don't have selectable text.</p> <p>Alongside the reading aspect, ClaroPDF gives users the ability to highlight, annotate and bookmark points within their PDFs, as well as adding shapes and freehand drawings. The user interface is very simple and gives the user so much scope for customising the additions they make to these documents. All of these changes can be saved to the iPad's storage as well as to Dropbox, and new documents can be drawn from a multitude of other apps and locations (such as Safari, Evernote, Pages and Mail).</p> <p>In short, ClaroPDF is a very useful tool to have; giving students the ability to continue their research without needing to be locked to their computer, in a fully customisable learning environment with multi-sensory features.</p> <p>- <i>Tim Blunt, DnA Trainer</i></p> <p><b>Recommended for?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mobile Text-Speech for PDF's</li> </ul>
<p><b>ClaroSpeak</b>            (£4.99 App store)  <a href="http://www.claro-apps.com/">http://www.claro-apps.com/</a></p> <p>On the surface, ClaroSpeak is a reader/text dictation app that will read out loud any text you import into it in what Claro call "human-sounding high-quality voices". Where it gets interesting is the level of customisation - it allows you to import a text file, set up a wide range of font types and sizes, colours and backgrounds, and then have the text read to you, with each sentence highlighted in a choice of colours as it's read. It also allows you to edit the text and then export it as text or as a spoken</p> 	<p>"I think this great s a text-to-speech app that has some nice easy to use features, including word highlighting as the text is spoken. Users can type content into the app or paste it from source such as a Word document or web page, and then tap "play" to hear the audio. The app can save content as audio or text files, and users can send files via email, text message, or save them to Dropbox. A very useful app especially for those already familiar with Claroread."</p> <p>- <i>Atif Choudhury, Senior DNA Trainer</i></p> <p><b>Recommended for?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mobile Text-to-Speech</li> <li>• Alternative strategy to reading</li> <li>• Reinforce learning through MP3 playback</li> </ul>



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<p><b>Coach's Eye</b>            (£2.99 App store, Google play)  <a href="http://www.coachseye.com/home/purchase">http://www.coachseye.com/home/purchase</a></p> <p>What Coach's Eye says: "Whether you're working on a golf swing, football kick, or yoga posture, Coach's Eye delivers "ah-ha" moments that elevate athletes from good to great."</p> <p>What it does: Video record your athletes on the field, review their technique on the spot, and help them to make immediate corrections. There is a flywheel which allows fluid, precise scrubbing of video, which allows you to really scrutinize the serve/swing/kick. You can annotate the video with arrows, circles, and freehand drawings to get your point across. Split screen comparison allows you to compare two videos to see how you compare to others or watch your own improvement.</p> 	<p>Coach's Eye is the third person with you in the sports field. It is able to give undisputable accuracy, so you have concrete examples of your or your student's technique. It allows you to hold a mirror up to yourself so that you can really see how you are doing and where you can improve. Its great to compare two videos, before and after practice so I can see exactly how much better I am doing.</p> <p><b>Recommended for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Making video notes</li> <li>• Annotating recorded videos</li> </ul>
<p><b>Conversor pro recorder</b>            (£14.99 App store)  <a href="https://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/conversor-pro-recorder/id555105940?mt=8">https://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/conversor-pro-recorder/id555105940?mt=8</a></p> <p>Conversor Pro Recorder is an easy to use, intuitive stereo recorder for use in lectures, classrooms, capturing music, recitals, church services or precious family events and offers back ground noise reduction for crystal clear recordings of voice notes, lectures and interviews. With its almost unlimited recording time, you never have to worry about cutting off the end of a lecture or recital.</p> 	<p>"Conversor Pro Recorder is a very cost effective and intuitive recording application. It also has a handy bookmarking facility, enabling you to place a marker on your audio. Due to its simplicity, you can begin recording and bookmarking lectures and meetings almost instantly. However, it does have some shortfalls such as some incompatibility between Conversor Pro's bookmarks and Audio Notetaker's sections. Also, the Wi-Fi sync function is not always available for some, making it less reliable for some students. All in all, a nice simple to use application available for anyone with an iPad or iPod."</p> <p><b>Recommended for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Audio notetaking</li> <li>• Recording lectures</li> </ul>

Tool/ Strategy Description	End User Review
<p><b>Dragon for Phones</b>            (free)  <a href="http://www.dragonmobileapps.com/">http://www.dragonmobileapps.com/</a></p> <p>Dragon now provides a range of apps that assist study processes through use of a smart phone, freeing up users from too many gadgets.</p> 	<p>"Dragon Dictation App allows users to speak into their smart phone and Dragon will type it up. This is really useful for people who find typing hard and feel they get their ideas down a lot quicker if they speak out loud their ideas. Dragon Dictation works with commands such as Full Stop and Comma. This app is also great for dictating any emails or texts. The Dragon Microphone app works with the software program Dragon Dictate for Mac. The user can connect up their Dragon microphone through wireless internet. The user can then set up their Dragon profile ready for use. The freedom of using their phone means they can walk around their house and room and talk into their phone using the microphone app and Dragon Dictate will type the words up and recognise commands such as Full Stop and New Paragraph. I am a big user of this application as it allows me the total freedom to walk around my home and Dictate – a fantastic app!"</p> <p><b>Recommended for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speech to Text</li> <li>• Note taking on the go</li> </ul>
<p><b>Dragon Dictation</b>            (free App store)  <a href="https://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/dragon-dictation/id341446764">https://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/dragon-dictation/id341446764</a></p> <p>Dragon Dictation is an easy to use voice recognition application from Nuance that allows you to speak and instantly see your words come to life on screen.</p> <p>Transcribing takes place within the applications notepad and once Americanisms have been removed the text can be copied and pasted into any other application via the clip board.</p> 	<p>I got on well with Dragon Dictation but when tested on others it had trouble picking up naturally spoken phrases and unusual dialects, which can be very frustrating. For best results users must speak calmly and clearly, thinking ahead about what is to be said but not so far as to feel robotic and laboured.</p> <p>It's this lack of integration with other applications and the fact that it doesn't get on well with certain voices that really stops Dragon Dictation from being a go-to app. With a generally high standard of accuracy and the ability to learn the users voice this is an invaluable tool for those with visual and motor impairments or just as a new way of working.</p> <p><b>Recommended for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speech to Text</li> <li>• Note taking on the go</li> <li>• Sentence Structuring</li> </ul>







Tool/ Strategy Description	End User Review
<p><b>Dragon Search</b></p> <p>(free App store)  <a href="http://www.nuancemobilelife.com/apps/dragon-search">http://www.nuancemobilelife.com/apps/dragon-search</a></p> <p>Dragon Search is the Fast, Accurate and Smart way to search online content on your iPhone using your voice. Simply speak your search queries and get simultaneous results from a variety of top websites and content sources including: Google or Yahoo! depending on your default settings, YouTube, Twitter Search, iTunes, Wikipedia.</p> 	<p>With great voice recognition accuracy and a simple, intuitive interface, Dragon Search is a fantastic tool for gathering results from the web with one touch. I really like the way it simultaneously searches Google, wiki, music, YouTube and twitter, making them all accessible with a swipe across the screen.</p> <p>There are many other options such as Siri and Google, which offer wider functionality, but neither are as accessible and dedicated solely to searching the web. On the move or at my desk, voice recognition opens up many new ways to quickly access information and for no cost at all it's well worth seeing if it can be used creatively to assist you on your fact finding missions.</p> <p><b>Recommended for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research using voice</li> </ul>
<p><b>Evernote Peek</b></p> <p>(free App store)  <a href="https://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/evernote-peek/id442151267">https://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/evernote-peek/id442151267</a></p> <p>Turn your notes, audio and image in Evernote into study materials with Evernote Peek. Prepare for a quiz or brush up on a language by simply lifting your iPad's Smart Cover, or by using our virtual smart cover.</p> 	<p>Peek could be a very handy revision tool; create a notebook on Evernote, make each note's title a factoid or question, put the definition or answer into the note and repeat a few times. Before you know it, you'll have a set of flash cards to test yourself with, using a smart screen-protector. It does also have the potential for adding images and sound for multi-sensory learning, but that can be fiddly; the images need to be a certain size, the audio needs to be the 'question' not the answer. Also, if you don't have a smart screen-protector, the virtual one can be a little temperamental sometimes. But if you have an iPad and the patience to stick with it, it could be a valuable tool.</p> <p>Compatible with iPad.</p> <p><b>Recommended for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revision</li> </ul>
<p><b>Evernote Skitch</b></p> <p>(free)  <a href="http://evernote.com/skitch/">http://evernote.com/skitch/</a></p> <p>Get your point across with fewer words using annotation, shapes and sketches, so that your ideas become reality faster.</p> 	<p>Skitch has a lot of potential for editing, proof-reading and research. You can import various different file formats in to annotate, apply highlights or scribble on. Any file format that can't be imported can be gathered using the screen-grab function. Being an Evernote product, all creations can be quickly added to your notebook, which means they can also be quickly shared; another reason it's great for group work. All of this can be found in wrapped in a very easy user interface, across a wide range of platforms.</p> <p>Compatible with Mac, Windows, Android and iOS.</p> <p><b>Recommended for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adding note and diagrams to PDF and images</li> </ul>


Tool/ Strategy Description	End User Review
<p><b>Gray's Anatomy for iPad</b></p> <p>(£54.99 App store)  <a href="https://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/grays-anatomy-for-students/id429405125?mt=8">https://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/grays-anatomy-for-students/id429405125?mt=8</a></p> <p>The renowned classic anatomical book 'Gray's Anatomy' by Henry Gray was first published in 1858 and is considered by many to be one of the most iconic and significant medical books of all time. Gray's Anatomy is now available on the iPad using the highest resolution images possible.</p> 	<p>Gray's Anatomy Premium for iPad is a tool which incorporates all of the illustrations from the original text edition of this medical resource. Having it available electronically allows students to add their own bookmarks and notes, so that they can easily jump to slides of personal interest, (most featuring detailed information taken from the book to support the zoomable HD images). Students can email content to external applications, or visit linked on-line resources via a built in web browser, (although some medical professionals might be a little worried that the default search engine is Wikipedia). There's even an 'index card' style test, where students are challenged to identify images in the app. Overall, this tool provides a reasonable general overview with a nice interface - the only frustrating thing is that of the 1200 or so images, only 7 of them are 3D. Some students, (particularly Kinaesthetic learners), may jump at the chance of having a tablet based 3d resource, and unfortunately, this feature is very light in content.</p> <p><b>Recommended for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Electronic &amp; visual resource for medical students</li> </ul>
<p><b>Inspiration Maps Lite</b></p> <p>(free App store)  <a href="https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/inspiration-maps-lite/id510031612">https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/inspiration-maps-lite/id510031612</a></p> <p>Engage students in active learning with Inspiration Maps. Students build their knowledge by creating diagrams, maps and organizers that help them brainstorm, plan, organize and build thinking skills. Tap to transform visual work into outlines that export for writing.</p> 	<p>Inspiration Lite is very similar to its Mac/PC counterpart; it has a similar aesthetic, includes the Rapidfire tool, the same system for notes. In some ways it's better than the original version; the ability to use your hands to change the structure/order of the map makes the interface far more intuitive and useable, they have a very simple system for group-selection, and the font/shape/colour tools are all in one place, and easy to deal with.</p> <p>Sadly, it does have some flaws; the free version only allows a maximum of five maps (which can't be exported), there's no arrange tool, you can only attach images to the map, and even with the paid-for version it's not currently compatible with the UK Mac/PC version.</p> <p>Overall, it's a nice app to play with, but it's shortfalls make it less useful for academic work. Compatible with iPad.</p> <p><b>Recommended for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mobile mind mapping</li> <li>• Revision</li> <li>• Essay structure</li> <li>• Export to desktop Inspiration tool</li> </ul>

Tool/ Strategy Description	End User Review
<p><b>iReadWrite</b>            (£19.99 App store)  <a href="https://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/ireadwrite/id600829238?mt=8">https://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/ireadwrite/id600829238?mt=8</a></p> <p>iReadWrite makes reading easier and ensures accurate writing as you use your iPad for school, work, or leisure.</p> <p>This App runs on your iPad with no Wi-Fi or 3G access necessary. It will make it easier to write an email, read an article or complete your research and then export it to email, messenger, Facebook or Twitter.</p> <p>iReadWrite acts like your literacy guide, saving you time and frustration and allowing you to read and write with ease and confidence.</p> 	<p>Those familiar with Text help products such as read and write and text help gold will find Ireadwrite a very useful app to have on the their Ipad. With the use of dual colours to highlight the spoken text and simultaneously change the background colors Ireadwrite proves to be particularly useful for learning facing visual disturbance when they read and indeed when they proof check. Providing a number of different voices and fonts including open dyslexic it will i'm sure continue to grown in popularity with schools and HEI. With the added function of not needing to have a running 3g network it is too my mind an accessible useful tool for many dyslexic learners especially those who have traditionally struggled to navigate their existing AT strategies onto a tablet.</p> <p><i>- Atif Choudhury, Senior DNA Trainer</i></p> <p><b>Recommended for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Text-to-speech</li> <li>• Dictionary</li> <li>• Decreases visual fatigue</li> </ul>
<p><b>iThoughtsHD</b>            (£6.99 App store; available for Mac)  <a href="http://www.ithoughts.co.uk/iThoughtsHD/Welcome.html">http://www.ithoughts.co.uk/iThoughtsHD/Welcome.html</a></p> <p>iThoughtsHD brings mind mapping to the iPad. Based on the award winning iThoughtsHD for iPhone, iThoughtsHD has been designed specifically for the iPad</p> <p>iThoughtsHD will import and export mindmaps to and from many of the most popular desktop mindmap applications such as MyThoughts, Freemind, Freeplane, XMind, Novamind, MindManager, MindView, ConceptDraw MINDMAP, MindGenius and iMindmap.</p> 	<p>iThoughtsHD ticks all the boxes, and then creates a few boxes you'd never even thought of - already ticked - to meet your mind mapping needs.</p> <p>The idea generation is as easy as double-tapping the map, the topic movement works incredibly fluidly, the note facility is sublimely well designed, the list of different changeable criteria (shape, size, colour, connections etc) is, the keyboard improvements should be adopted by Apple universally, the 'Doodle' feature that allows you to draw quick sketches and the research facility makes it incredibly easy to get information, quotes and hyperlinks for your project. Add to that an impressive number of compatible file-types for exporting, synchronicity with most cloud storage options and a search facility that makes it easy to search across all your maps.</p> <p><b>Recommended for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mobile mind mapping</li> <li>• Revision</li> <li>• Essay structure</li> </ul>




Tool/ Strategy Description	End User Review
<p><b>Neu.Annotate+PDF</b>            (£0.69 App store)  <a href="http://www.neupen.com/">http://www.neupen.com/</a></p> <p>Read and annotate PDF documents. Annotate with drawings, highlighting text, text notes, photos and stamps.</p> <p>PDF files can be opened in neu.Annotate from any application that supports the "Open with..." menu command. This includes Mail, Safari, Box, Dropbox and many others. PDF files can also be imported using iTunes File Sharing, Dropbox, and WebDAV services.</p> <p>Annotated PDF files can be shared via email as well as exported to iTunes and Dropbox. Individual pages can also be shared in PNG and JPG formats, in addition to PDF.</p> 	<p>"Notability is a very intuitive and kinaesthetic strategy for note taking and recording interviews. This app allows the user to record sound, input text using the iPad keyboard and highlight or sketch diagrams using a finger or stylus. These notes can then be saved and tagged so they are easy to find when the student needs to use their notes."</p> <p>- Adam Hyland, Senior DnA Trainer</p> <p><b>Recommended for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adding notes and diagrams to PDF</li> </ul>
<p><b>Notability</b>            (£1.99 App store)  <a href="http://www.gingerlabs.com/">http://www.gingerlabs.com/</a></p> <p>Notability is so powerful that it will transform how you work: sketch ideas, annotate documents, sign contracts, complete worksheets, keep a journal, jot travel notes, teach a class, make a presentation and much more. With iCloud support, your notes stay up to date on all your devices!</p> <p>Write, illustrate and annotate using gorgeous retina ink. Notability's zoom window helps you quickly and clearly draw every detail, while the palm rest protects your notes from unwanted marks. Choose the right pen and paper for any project.</p> 	<p>Neu.Annotate is designed to allow user to Annotate PDF create new ones change the background colour of existing ones as well scribble notes and draw . From an accessibility point of view its very useful in making locked PDF accessible and certainly lends itself to individualising information and adding comments for revisions and research purposes.</p> <p>It comes with a range of stamps, shapes and clip art that can be added, rescaled and personalised. In general useful tool particularly for those working in virtual learning environments and for those and troubled by printed costs and the difficulties around accessing PDF journals .Very good value for money too!</p> <p>- Atif Choudhury, Senior DNA Trainer</p> <p><b>Recommended for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Note taking</li> <li>• Audio recording</li> </ul>

Tool/ Strategy Description	End User Review
<p><b>Noteshelf</b>            (£5.99 App store)  <a href="http://www.fluidtouch.biz/noteshelf/">http://www.fluidtouch.biz/noteshelf/</a></p> <p>Noteshelf brings beauty and purpose to your iPad as the true digital notepad it was always meant to be. It includes 15 notebook covers and 20 useful page designs like lined paper, graph paper, shopping list, day planner and more.</p> 	<p>"Noteshelf is another innovative note taking tool for the iPad. As soon as you open the app, the user is presented with a virtual bookcase where the student can add notebooks for each of their course units or lecturers. Gone are the days where disorganised sheets of paper get mixed up and misplaced."</p> <p><b>Recommended for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Note taking</li> <li>• Audio recording</li> <li>• Organisational</li> </ul>
<p><b>Manuscript for iPad</b>            (£4.99 App store)  <a href="https://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/manuscript-for-ipad/id386432460?mt=8">https://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/manuscript-for-ipad/id386432460?mt=8</a></p> <p>Manuscript is a writing application that lets you outline, research, edit and export anywhere between a short story and an entire book. Manuscript is not limited to writing stories – you can use it for note-taking, project management, storyboard and much more.</p> <p>How it works: To start, you can create a manuscript from scratch or import from Dropbox. Create pitches, synopsis, articles, and books. Each chapter can be outlined individually. You can create empty chapters, outline them, and then pour content into them in any order you like. Backup your work-in-progress or export your finished manuscript to Dropbox as an RTF, TXT or HTML file that can be read by both Mac and PC.</p> 	<p>Manuscript is a simple, intuitive way of organising and encouraging creative writing. It understands that writing rarely is written in a linear, systematic process and therefore allows me to write chapters in any order I choose. If I have a clear idea how my book ends, but still thinking how it begins, I can write the end and then come back to the start later. The built in Wikipedia, dictionary and thesaurus means I have everything I need within the app to start writing.</p> <p><b>Recommended for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mobile script writing tool</li> </ul>

Tool/ Strategy Description	End User Review
<p><b>Mental Case</b>            (free App store)  <a href="http://www.mentalcaseapp.com/">http://www.mentalcaseapp.com/</a></p> <p>“Mental Case is a study aid designed specifically to help you learn. It doesn’t matter what you need to learn. It can be simple day-to-day facts like the name of a new colleague at work, or the date of your niece’s birthday. But it could also be of life changing importance, like studying for your high school finals, completing a medicine or law degree, learning a new language, or getting your driver’s license. Whatever it is, Mental Case is the tool for the job!</p> <p>How it works: “You enter what you want to study in the form of brief mental notes. These notes are similar to traditional flashcards, but are much more powerful. They can include as many facets as you like, each of which can contain text, an image, audio, and even short video. Once you have a set of notes prepared, you can study them in beautiful presented slideshows, which make studying less of a chore.”</p> 	<p>Using flashcards as a means of revising and learning is nothing new. However being able to organise them in a digital format is much more wieldy. I love flashcards. They really do help me to absorb and recall information; however handling 30-40 pieces of card can be a problem. I drop them, they get lost, they lose their order etc. With Mental case, not only are my flashcards neatly arranged, syncing between devices, but also the electronic format lends itself other mediums, like video, audio and images. As a visual learner these things make a huge difference to me.</p> <p><b>Recommended for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revision</li> </ul>
<p><b>Mindjet for iPad</b>            (free App store, Google play)  <a href="http://learn.mindjet.com/apps">http://learn.mindjet.com/apps</a></p> <p>Mindjet Maps for iPad lets you easily enter ideas, tasks, and meeting notes into intuitive visual maps that help you quickly organize concepts and prioritize action items. Instantly create new maps or import them from Mindjet Connect</p>	<p>In some ways, Mindjet Maps for iPad is almost the perfect mind mapping tool. It has the ability to attach any document, note, image or hyperlink to any point on the map, has a good system for generating new ideas, has a very intuitive interface, allows for saving to a few cloud storage solutions, and it exports as an outline view, a PDF and a Mind Manager Mac/PC compatible file as standard.</p> <p>Frustratingly, it’s flaws make it a lot less than perfect. Changing the order of subtopics is a very simple task, but there is no way of moving topics to different levels, or even changing with point they’re attached to. This slows down the idea-generation process significantly, as it requires the user to know the order before they add the point. There are also a few aesthetic options that seem too limited for users with Irlen syndrome.</p> <p>In short, Mindjet Maps for iPad can be a fantastic tool, if you can modify your creative process to match its working method. Compatible with iPad</p> <p><b>Recommended for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mobile mind mapping</li> <li>• Revision</li> <li>• Essay structure</li> <li>• Export to desktop Mind Manager tool</li> </ul>

Tool/ Strategy Description	End User Review
<p><b>Screenplay for iPad</b></p> <p>(£5.99 App store)  <a href="https://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/screenplay-for-ipad/id367914466?mt=8">https://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/screenplay-for-ipad/id367914466?mt=8</a></p> <p>Screenplay for iPad harnesses the power and portability of the iPad, providing you with the ultimate tool for screenwriting on the go. Whether you are an aspiring or professional screenwriter, Screenplay for iPad expands on its popular predecessor by adding over 75 new features that will enhance your productivity no matter where you choose to write.</p> 	<p>The Ipad version of 'Screenplay' is a tool which film students might find useful when generating first drafts of scripts on the move. Rather than acting like a word processor, correct screenplay style is intuitively auto-formatted as you type; this works better than many other similar tablet applications. Additionally, when adding in new characters or scenes, these are then available in linked drop-down menus to improve navigation. However, there is no way to generate reports, prop lists, or enter detailed character information, and the index card system doesn't seem to link to screenplay scenes in any tangible way. At the point of testing, there were also bugs with the export options; (despite several being available, each defaulted to Dropbox export). However, the software does export to Final Draft 8 format; in that sense, this could be a useful tool for getting started with screenplay ideas, as long as any kind of complex revision is to be carried out on a computer.</p> <p><b>Recommended for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mobile script writing tool</li> </ul>
<p><b>SpeakIt!</b></p> <p>(£1.49 App store)  <a href="https://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/speak-it!-text-to-speech/id308629295">https://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/speak-it!-text-to-speech/id308629295</a></p> <p>Copy emails, documents, web pages, PDF files, and more; paste them into Speak it!, and have the text spoken back to you with the highest quality text to speech engine available anywhere. You can even create the same quality audio files of the text to speech which can then be emailed to anyone you like! Need an elegant way to make announcements over your PA system? Speak it! can do that too. You can easily set up a list of pre-made announcements, and play them with a press of a button.</p> 	<p>Like many of text to speech software apps Speak it will enable users to paste in text from emails/ pdf and website and have them read back to you. For learner on the move this can be invaluable for helping student prepare for lectures and adopt the idea of having a mini lecture on the way to a Lecture. Where it really comes into its own is by allowing users to record their spoken voice and email their thoughts and words which for many Dyslexic learners could be very useful for 1to1 support sessions and team work. More and more Learner with visual impairment are using speak it every day and with it ease of access it easy to see why!</p> <p><b>Recommended for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mobile Text-to-Speech</li> </ul>

Tool/ Strategy Description	End User Review
<p><b>Study Blue</b>            (free iOS, Android, web)  <a href="http://www.studyblue.com/">http://www.studyblue.com/</a></p> <p>This app is made for serious studiers; flip online flash cards for fast feedback on what you know, then re-study concepts you've not yet mastered using Study Filters. Review as snores or make flash cards whenever you have a minute to spare. Study over breakfast or late at night - at the library or in a coffee shop. Do what works for you whenever and wherever you are.</p> 	<p>One of the top revision tools available for free, Study Blue allows you to make revision cards quickly and more easily than you might have thought. Type in a piece of terminology, and Study Blue will search it's database of user-created flash cards for other people's definitions and descriptions of that term (frequently in the tens of thousands). Don't like any definition listed? You can create your own or edit a pre-existing card, and it gives you the ability to add hyperlinks, images and audio if helpful or relevant. Setting up an account can be a little problematic - as it's very American college-system centric - but persevere; The rewards hugely outweigh the effort spent!</p> <p>Accessible through any web browser and with flash-card apps from most mobile devices.</p> <p><b>Recommended for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revision</li> </ul>