



Do you speak Dragon?

Raise your voice and share your story about how you use Dragon NaturallySpeaking.

USER STORIES: EDUCATION

FOR STUDENTS

Davis P.

"I'm a freshmen, ninth grade you see I wanted B's but it was F's for me. School was hard for this dyslexic boy, I needed something to make school a joy. I searched and searched for answers true I thought and thought what should I do? My parents brought me something new Dragon Speak now that's for you. I now can write a report or two in half the time the time I use to. Dragon Speak has made me free, To express myself more easily."

Zac C.

"We got Dragon Naturally Speaking for our Middle School aged son three years ago. He was having a really tough time with home work assignments, especially essays. He would get frustrated trying to type his ideas into the word processor. Both his slow typing speed and poor spelling were holding him back. The first assignment that he wrote using Naturally Speak was so amazing, well we had trouble believing he had written it himself! Being able to "talk" his ideas into the computer allowed his words to flow easily from his mind to the word processor. He began, dare I say, "enjoying" his writing assignments. Not only that, but his spelling got much better because Naturally Speaking helped teach him the correct spelling of words. Now we tell all of our friends with kids about Naturally Speaking and the difference it has made in our child's academic life. Thank You Dragon!"

Marcy D.

"Unable to write at length, my 11 year old son uses Dragon for extended writing assignments rather than dictating to me. It frees up my time so I can help my other children with homework. He enjoys using the software and his teachers are impressed with the length of his writing assignments."

FOR TEACHERS / PROFESSORS

Kevin S.

"I am a special education teacher and have been using Dragon with several of the special needs students that I work with. It has saved me valuable time letting Dragon do the scribing and also allowed for students to express themselves and participate in regular education classes without standing out so much. Their conditions would normally have kept them from completing the tasks within class periods like the rest of their peers. This has helped raise their self-esteem, confidence, and leveled the playing field creating learners that are enjoying writing."

Leonard B.

"As a Special Education Teacher in NYC I have utilized Dragon NaturallySpeaking with another Windows-based program to enhance the writing ability of all the special education teachers in my school. We are all responsible for writing Individual Educational Programs (IEP) for the children we service. Utilizing a Windows-based program and integrating Dragon the teachers were able to speak their IEP's rather than write them. Thus, greatly improving their productivity and reducing the amount of paperwork they are responsible for."

Alex M.

"I speak Dragon to improve my efficiency as a teacher. One of the biggest headaches for any teacher is record-keeping. In my case, teaching nearly 200 students per term, simply inputting grades for an assignment consumes an enormous amount of time, even if you're a touch typist (as I am). Dragon NaturallySpeaking makes this nuisance so much less of a pain because I can input the numbers essentially as fast as I can speak, and without constantly having to move my eyes from the list I am

copying from to the screen that I am copying to, and vice versa. Of course, I also use Dragon NaturallySpeaking to answer e-mails and provide feedback on assignments - but the data input benefits alone easily justify the cost of the software."

Joseph M.

"I am a college professor who uses speech recognition to help me give more feedback to students. From a teaching and learning point of view, feedback is important, Getting prompt and detailed feedback is critical to quality education and it also motivates students. Therefore, anything that facilitates giving feedback is extremely worthwhile. Because I generally conduct "paperless courses" in which students submit their work electronically, I am able to use Dragon NaturallySpeaking to much more easily make comments and suggestions about their work. DNS facilitates this function in two important ways: 1) Because I can work more quickly and naturally than by typing, I can provide more detailed and more frequent feedback, and 2) students can actually read my what I say! Additionally, I am also more motivated to make plenty of comments because I am avoiding aggravating my carpal tunnel injury from the "old days" and/or writer's cramp... from the even older days!"

John U.

"I used Dragon to grade student papers at the SIT Graduate Institute in Vermont. Using Dragon keeps me from procrastinating the difficult task of responding to student papers and allows me to give them prompt and extensive feedback. Students are very happy when they receive thoughtful feedback from professors by the next class, especially feedback that they can read, which is not always true with my handwriting. I also feel that being able to dictate my academic work saves my fingers and hands from developing repetitive stress injuries. I recommend Dragon to all the other professors. They are impressed, but slow to act, while I believe my use of Dragon helps me receive higher student evaluations of my teaching."

Donald S.

"I am a professor of criminal justice at Old Dominion University. I have always wanted to put our curriculum online for the benefit of those in the military, law enforcement, single parents and others who are geographically isolated from college campuses. During the past two years I created online versions of most of our courses. I used Dragon regularly in creating these courses. For each video or audio lecture that I place in these courses I use Dragon to create a text file, and then convert it to a PDF file. This means that students can take the materials with them on any portable device that shows text and most importantly the course can be offered to those who are hearing impaired. Now below each mp3 player or video player that appears in the course is a PDF button with the text of each lecture created by using Dragon."

Matt Z.

I have been in the teaching profession for almost 28 years, 16 of those years as a school counselor. I could never find enough time to log the different interviews during the day with the students making note of follow-up visits I needed to make and pertinent information that I wanted to remember. I knew I needed to keep a log but just could not work it in. Then I heard of Dragon's Naturally Speaking from my brother who is a Professor at North Dakota State University. He uses it in his correspondence and with his research. I decided to get the program. Following each interview I would take just a moment and dictate the main points of the interview, goals for future visits, and impressions that I wanted to be able to recall and use to help in future session. It has made all the difference. I have a Word File that I leave on my desk top of my computer and a single clique and it opens up to my latest memo and I am ready for the next entry. I have also had a desire to keep a personal diary and Dragon's Naturally Speaking has made that possible. Of course, the more I use it the better it gets. I have been extremely pleased with it and look forward many more years of use. Thank you for this great program.

Allen S.

"I speak dragon to improve my work. I'm a university professor who teaches my classes online. These classes include regular online live chats with the students. By speaking dragon I can respond quickly to them in real time w/o the trouble and slowness of typing out my lectures and responses to questions."

Robert P.

"I am a high school English teacher. I see 186 kids a day. We work almost daily on our writing skills. We practice and practice. One downside of all of that practice for me is that I have to read and comment on all of the kids' work. A few years ago I was diagnosed with a rare condition called OPLL- a disease where one's body produces extra calcium and one's muscles and tendons calcify and become like bone. I was

also diagnosed with RA. The arthritis often makes it very difficult for me to sit and write for even short periods of time. Typing is a little better than hand writing, but also quite difficult for longer periods of time. In the past couple of years I have had to assign fewer and fewer essays because I couldn't get all of the reading and commenting done in a timely manner. Feedback on student papers is only helpful to them if it is timely. Last fall I went in search of a computer program that would allow me to speak in order to give comments to my student. What a lifesaver the Dragon software has become. Now I can read and respond to the students' essay quickly. I can add more comments because I am not limited to the length of time that my fingers are up to the task. Their writing is improving. Dragon has also given me the ability to sit back and relax as I add comments to their papers. I am no longer tied so closely to the desk and computer. I can move around as I dictate my instructions. This mobility allows me to work for longer stretches of time. I get more work done during each grading session and the kids get their responses back faster. While at home, Dragon has also helped with the quality of my life. I return from work less physically tired and therefore a happier husband and father. Also, when I am emailing friends and coworkers, if my body becomes weak and tired, but I don't want to stop, I can fire up the software and simply speak my emails. What a pleasure it is to not have to give up my correspondence simply because my back or hands or arms hurt. I know it sounds like I am making Dragon out to be a miracle cure. I know it is not. It doesn't solve everything, but for me it is wonderful. I tell everyone I know how great it is and how freeing it is."

Andrew S.

"Teaching ONLINE with Dragon: Well, the truth is that Dragon improves my life because it improves my work AND creativity! I teach English courses online. Dragon allows me to develop lectures and discussions in a small fraction of the time that typing would take. Dragon creates a way for me to produce virtually error-free impromptu course materials, and to respond quickly and extensively to student work. I can teach my online courses on Blackboard and WebCT HANDS FREE! Students marvel at my extreme level of dedication and involvement. Thanks, Dragon!"

Richard S.

"I am a person with a disability (cerebral palsy). The condition has impacted my lower extremities and I have used crutches and a wheelchair for mobility all of my life. I have been a high school teacher, social worker and currently teach social work at California State University, Fresno. About eight years ago, I was diagnosed with carpal tunnel syndrome after completing my first textbook. The surgeon suggested that I use of voice activated software. After doing extensive research, I concluded that Dragon was the best. I can say that without Dragon, I would have been unable to perform my duties as Professor for the last eight years. All my writing is through Dragon. I require that my students send their papers via e-mail so I can correct them using Dragon. As new versions of the software come out, the accuracy increases tenfold. I would venture to say in the last version (version 9), the accuracy is anywhere from 98 to 99%. Dragon voice activated software has certainly changed my life because it allowed me to maintain my viability as an educator and a writer. I've recommended the software thousands and thousands of times. Thank you for your fine product."

H. Z.

"As a volunteer on many community and national projects, I have found many uses for Nuance products. One of the most amazing uses was in helping disadvantaged children achieve where most other programs had failed. For example, in California, almost half of the students cannot read at even a basic proficiency level. The latest results from the National Assessment of Academic Progress (NAEP) shows that the problem has been getting worse. In some classrooms, students are so far behind, they have little chance of ever catching up. Schools and teachers do not have the resources to help an overwhelming number of students that all need extra help. Even worse, teachers do not have the tools or the time for assessing students in order to adapt the lessons to meet student needs. Nuance products have been very useful for helping all students achieve. For example, we created an assessment station where students could read a book into a tape recorder. We then wrote some programs to automatically recognize student info, sample the recordings and feed the samples into a Nuance VXML based IVR for preprocessing and then Nuance Dragon software for speech to text and analysis. We quickly calculated the reading levels of the students. The Dragon output was then used to find what words the students had problems reading, then we produced automated recommendations for individualized lessons, homework, and worksheets. Each student got the exact practice material they needed, and their progress was amazing. Although there are currently millions of students that are failing in California's public schools, Nuance technology has come through and helped the classrooms of disadvantaged students where I am a volunteer."

Roberta T.

"Without Dragon, I Wouldn't Work. When I was diagnosed with repetitive motion injury in 1992, my job as a reference librarian and faculty member at a public research university required several hours of computer use each day. In the post-Web era, my job requires computer use almost exclusively. I use Dragon for answering endless e-mails from students, colleagues, and everybody around the University; working on our Ask a Librarian e-mail reference service; drafting memos, making Web guides; constructing PowerPoint presentations; and even writing articles for publication. Taking notes from readings is a snap, and transcribing the notes from a meeting takes very little time with dictation. If I could figure out some way to use Dragon at our busy (and noisy) reference desk or while teaching classes, I would. By taking a large portion of the typing strain off my hands and arms, Dragon makes it possible for me to do a computer-intensive job that is interesting but often fast-paced and demanding both physically and intellectually. (And you thought libraries were calm, quiet places! Well, maybe they used to be.) My first Dragon product was DragonDictate, and I am endlessly grateful for NaturallySpeaking and its ease of use. I have seen training times for the voice profile decrease from an hour to five minutes and observed terrific increases in accuracy since I began using these products. Several faculty and staff have come to me over the years to ask about dictation products, because they or people near them have experienced repetitive motion injury or other disabilities that make typing difficult, and they want to keep working at what they love. For many of us Dragon users, that's the bottom line: dictate or forget working at what you were born to do."

Richard L.

"Before I can tell you my story about how I speak Dragon to improve my life, I think it is appropriate to tell you a little bit about my life, how it dramatically changed, and how I have used Dragon to adapt to some abrupt physical changes in my life. I am a professor at Saginaw Valley State University, in Michigan. In 2001, at the age of 55, I became a stroke survivor. As a result of this stroke, my left side was paralyzed. Through therapy I was able to relearn how to walk. However, I am still essentially unable to use my left hand or arm for much of anything. This was a bit of a problem since I am (or was) left-handed, and was a relatively fast typist in the use of my personal computer. About 40% or more of my teaching and grading course components are now based upon individual, e-mail based, research and writing assignments. I use Dragon to write almost all of my course documents, and also use Dragon to communicate feedback to students about grades on their assignments. Without Dragon, it would be virtually impossible for me to write and promptly process over 1000 student e-mails per class. As a result, approximately 7 years after the stroke, I have been able to continue university teaching on a full-time basis. The attitude of my rehab doctor was considerable surprise, perceived amusement, and even his strongly indicated disapproval that I should continue to work and teach. He apparently expected that I would quickly retire on a disability basis. However, the applied use of adaptive technologies, including the use of Dragon, has allowed me to continue teaching successfully and productively on a full-time basis. (But my rehab doctor is now retired!) Apparently, the assumption by my doctor was that that "disabled" professionals, like me, should be expected and satisfied to simply retire, sit on my behind, and receive disability payments until I reached official, normal, retirement age. At the age of 55, I was not ready to do that! At my current age of 62, I am still not ready to allow my physical disabilities to end my teaching career. I can specifically credit the use of Dragon as a key part of my ability to process written documents on both a quality and timely basis for my students. Thus, I can most emphatically state that I not only speak Dragon in my teaching, but also that I have very effectively USED IT to allow me to continue my teaching career!"